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WITCHBLADE®

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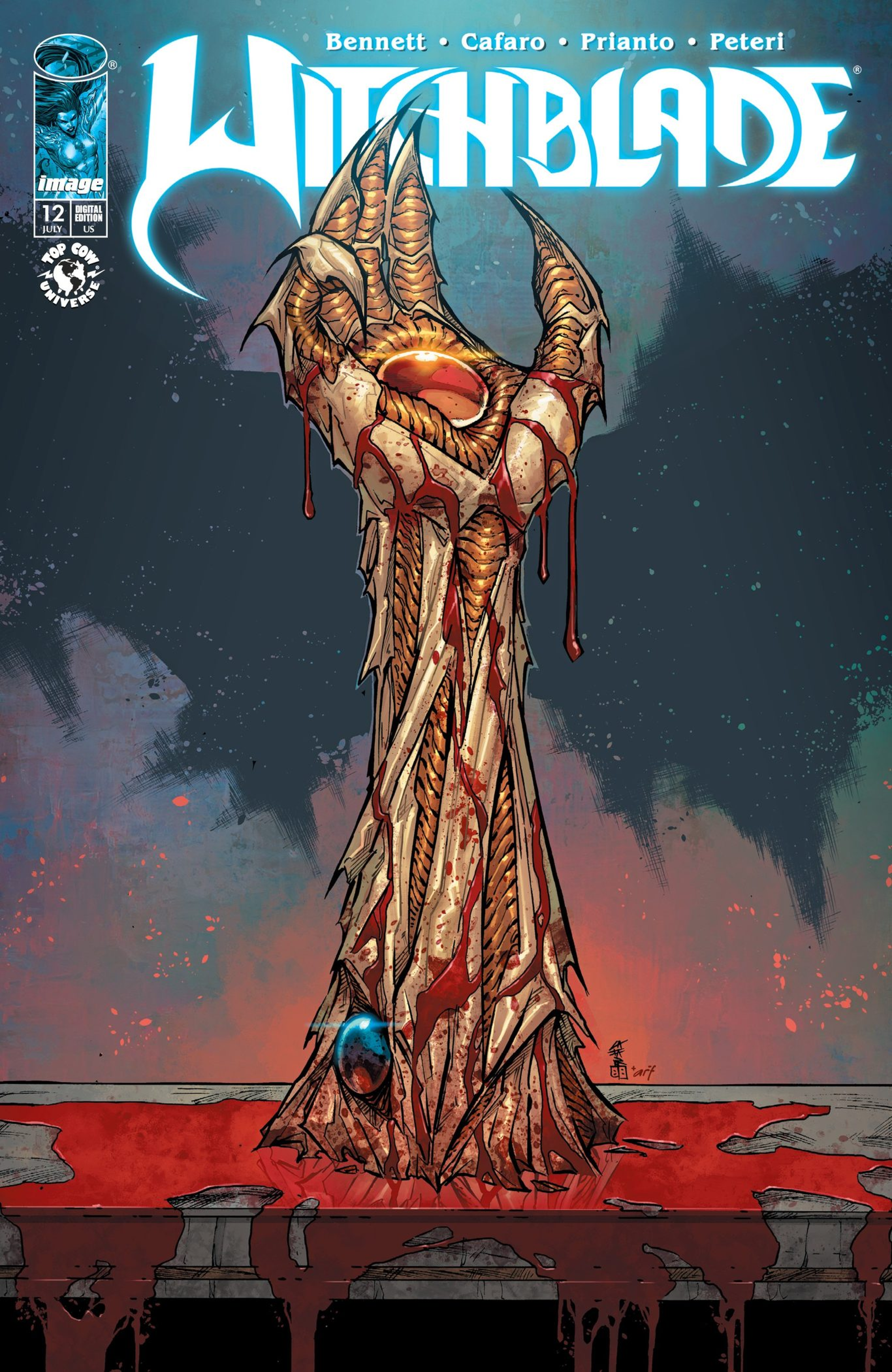
JULY
DIGITAL EDITION
US
TOP COW UNIVERSE®



WITCHBLADE®

created by **Marc Silvestri**, **David Wohl**, **Brian Haberlin** & **Michael Turner**

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city. During a brutal warehouse massacre, Sara bonded with the Witchblade, an ancient weapon that transformed her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings.

Previously...Sara's search into the cover-up that destroyed her father and the supernatural forces surrounding her has led to billionaire Kenneth Irons. Irons has money, power, and associates from the darkest corners of the underworld. The clues surrounding human trafficking and murder in the city have led Sara to the supernatural beings known as Creosotes. Dark creatures that seem to kill and manifest as their fallen prey. Following a lead, Sara and Ian Nottingham enter the Creosote nest where Sara's partner, Michael Yee, has been shot and clings to life by a thread. The Creosotes rise up to fight Sara but are put down as Irons reveals Ian betrayed her and that Irons can save her partner...for a price. Retrieve something from within the Creosote temple for him and Irons will save Michael'e life. To save her partner, Sara makes the impossible choice, agrees, and plunges deep into the supernatural world of "The Harrowing," where she encounters Sonatine, leader of the Brotherhood of the Darkness, and finds nascent Darkness bearer Jackie Estacado, crucified, left for dead in a barren hellscape.

"I AIN'T GOT NO / I GOT LIFE"

Written by **Marguerite Bennett**
Line art by **Giuseppe Cafaro**
Colors by **Arif Prianto**
Letters by **Troy Peteri**
Edits by **Marc Silvestri**, **Matt Hawkins** and **Ryan Cady**

Cover A: **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**
Cover B, D, E, and Top Cow Store Foil Exclusive: **Dani** and **Brad Simpson**
Cover C, F, and Top Cow Convention Foil Exclusive: **Artgerm**

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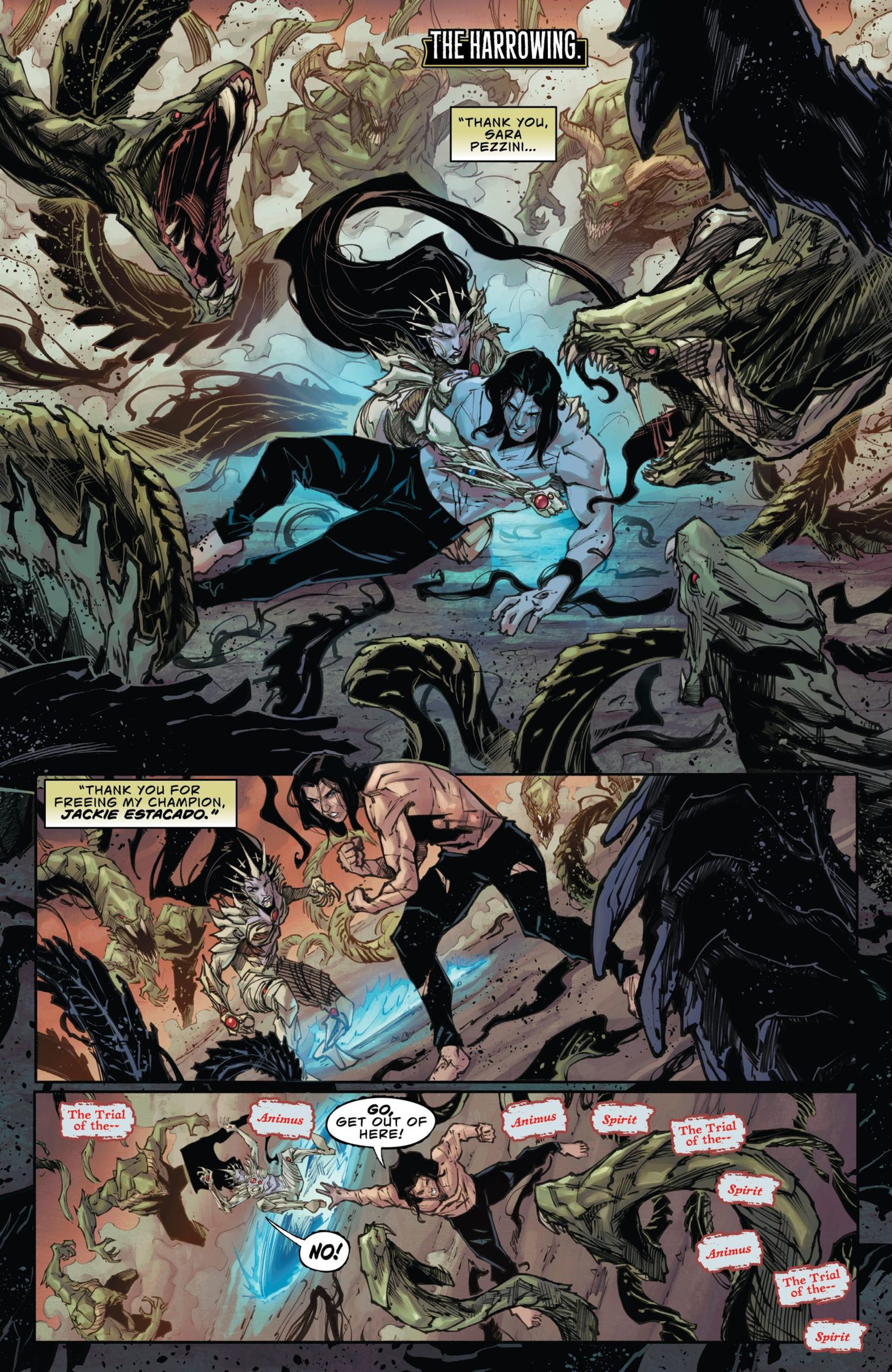
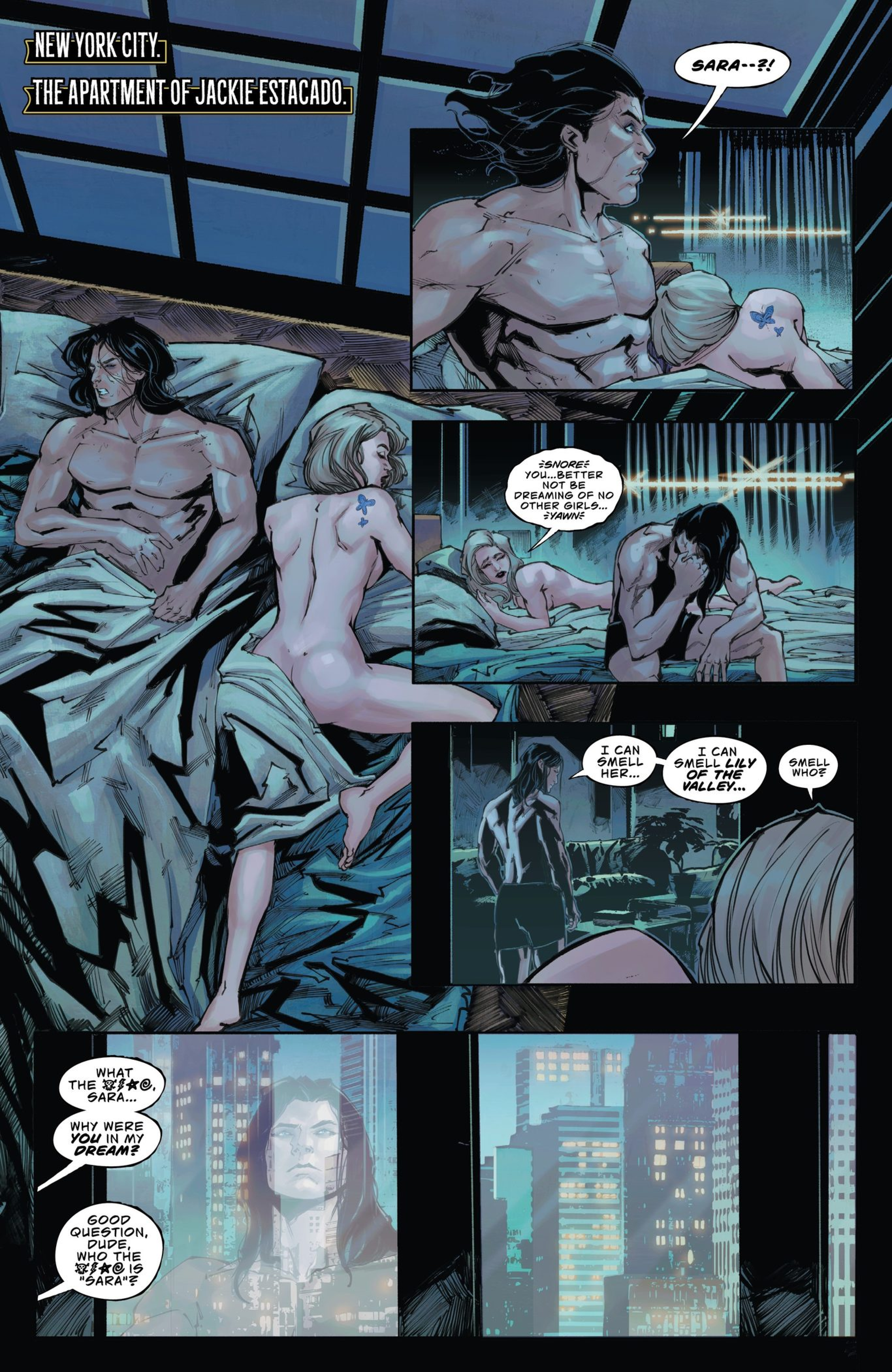
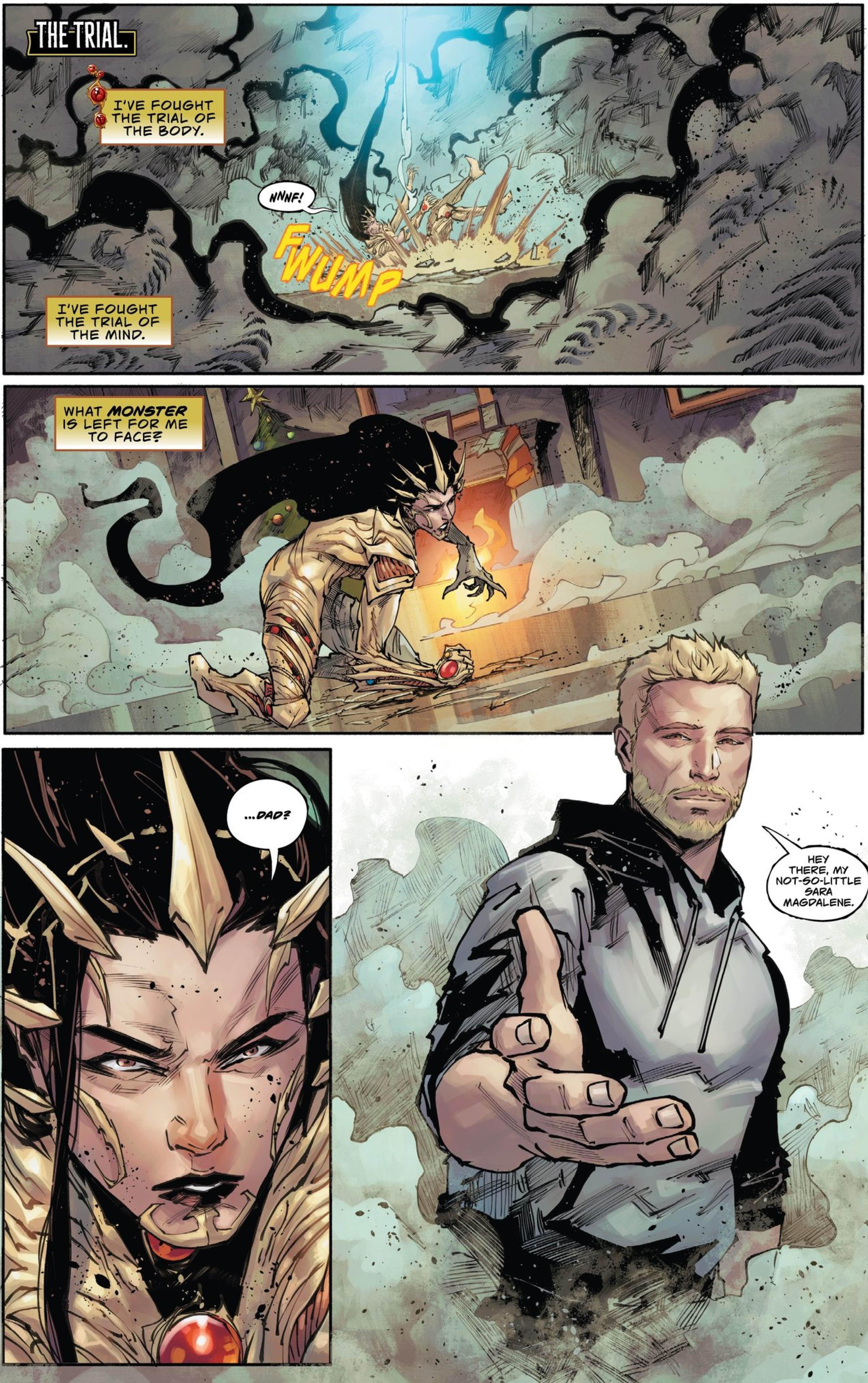
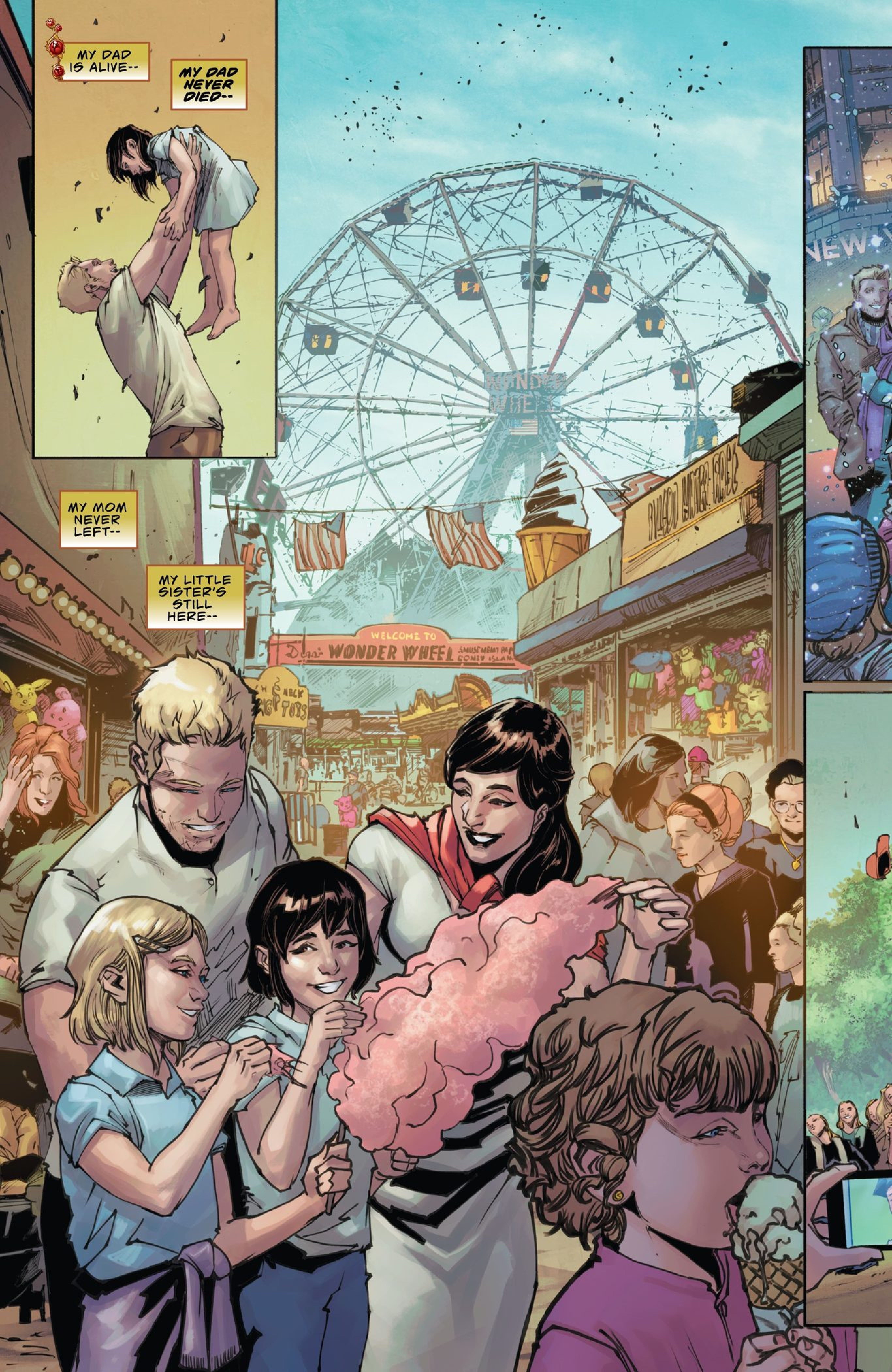
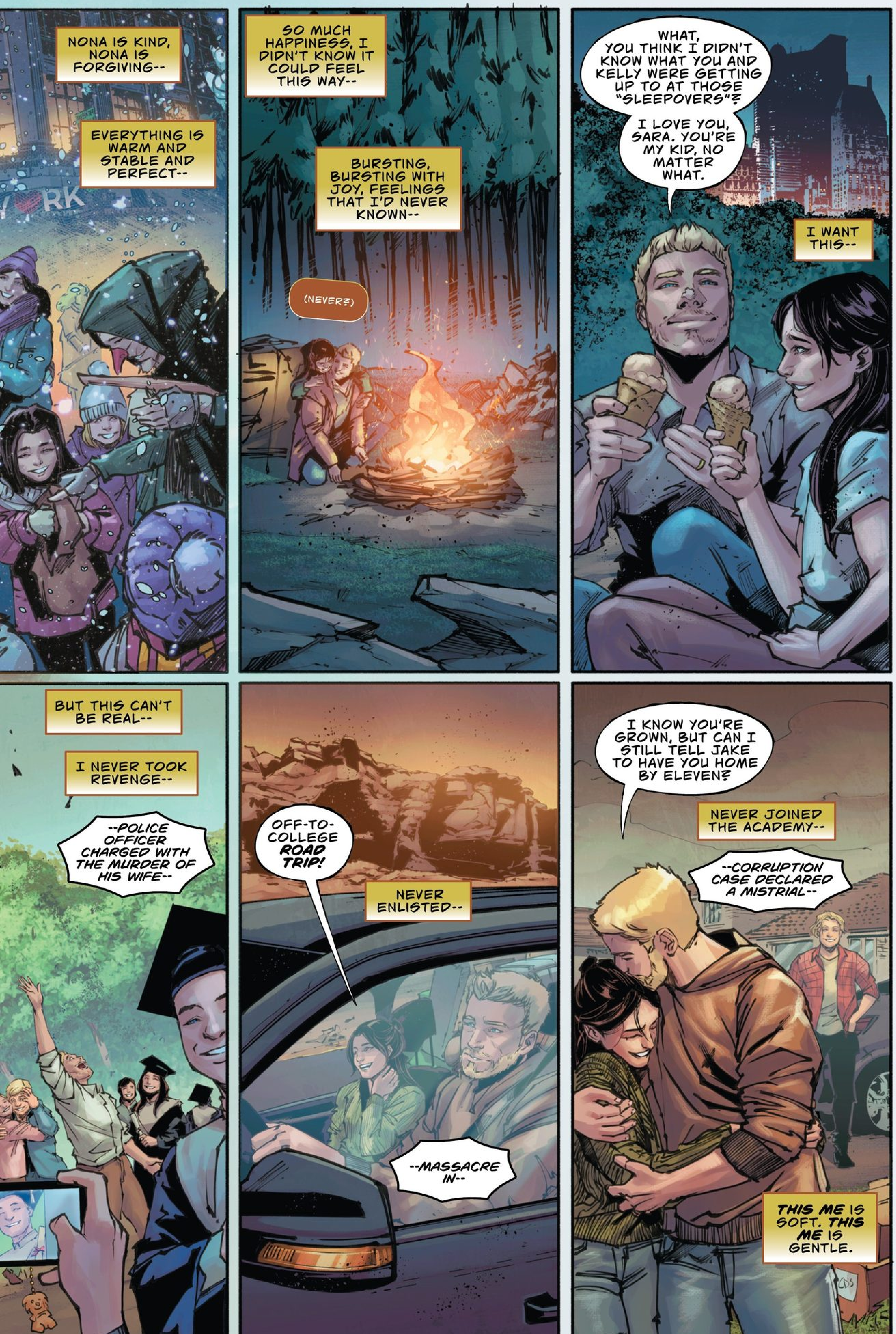
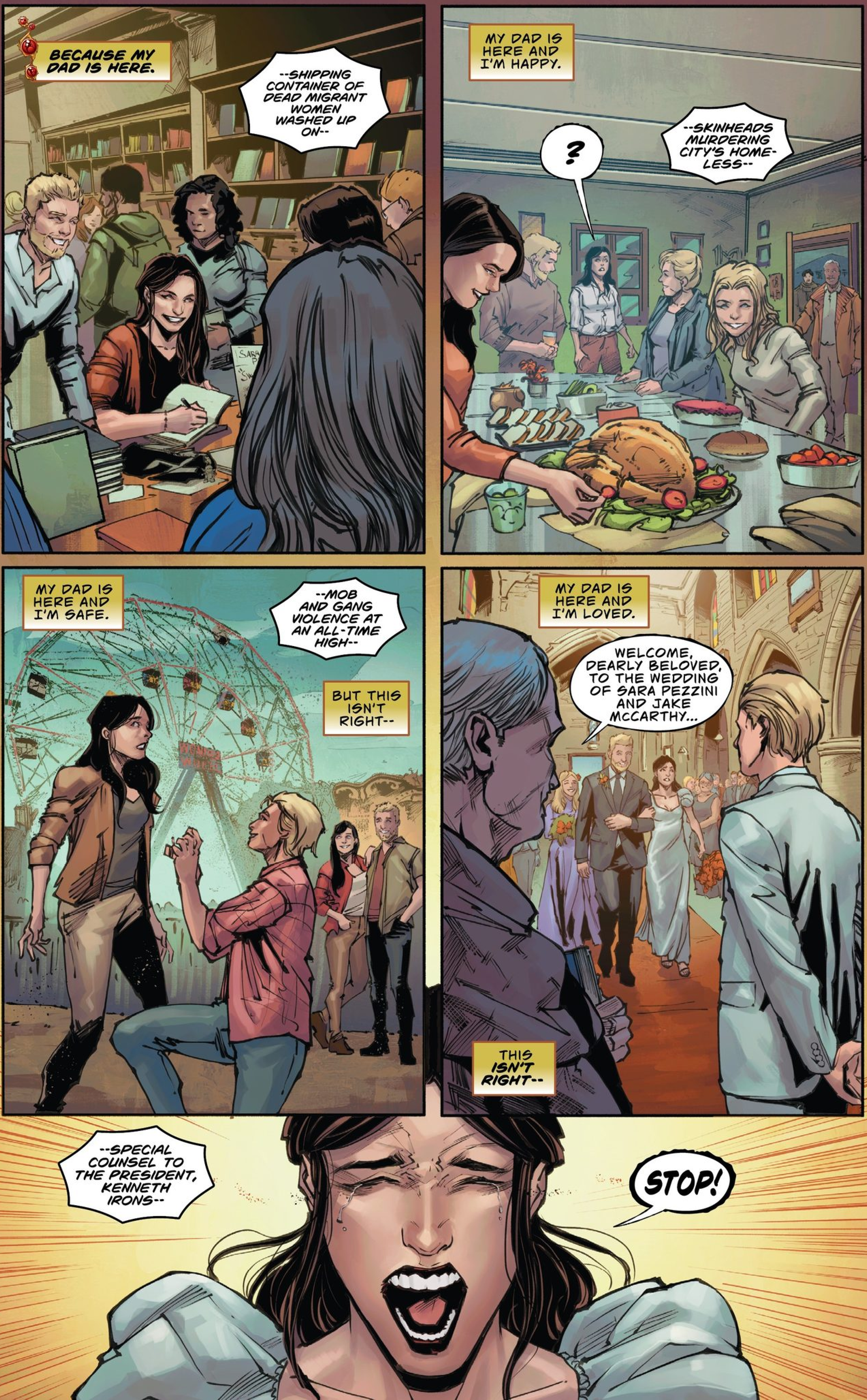

THE HARROWING.
"THANK YOU, SARA PEZZINI...
"THANK YOU FOR FREEING MY CHAMPION, JACKIE ESTACADO."
The Trial of the--
Animus
GO, GET OUT OF HERE!
Animus
Spirit
The Trial of the--
Spirit
NO!
Animus
The Trial of the--
Spirit

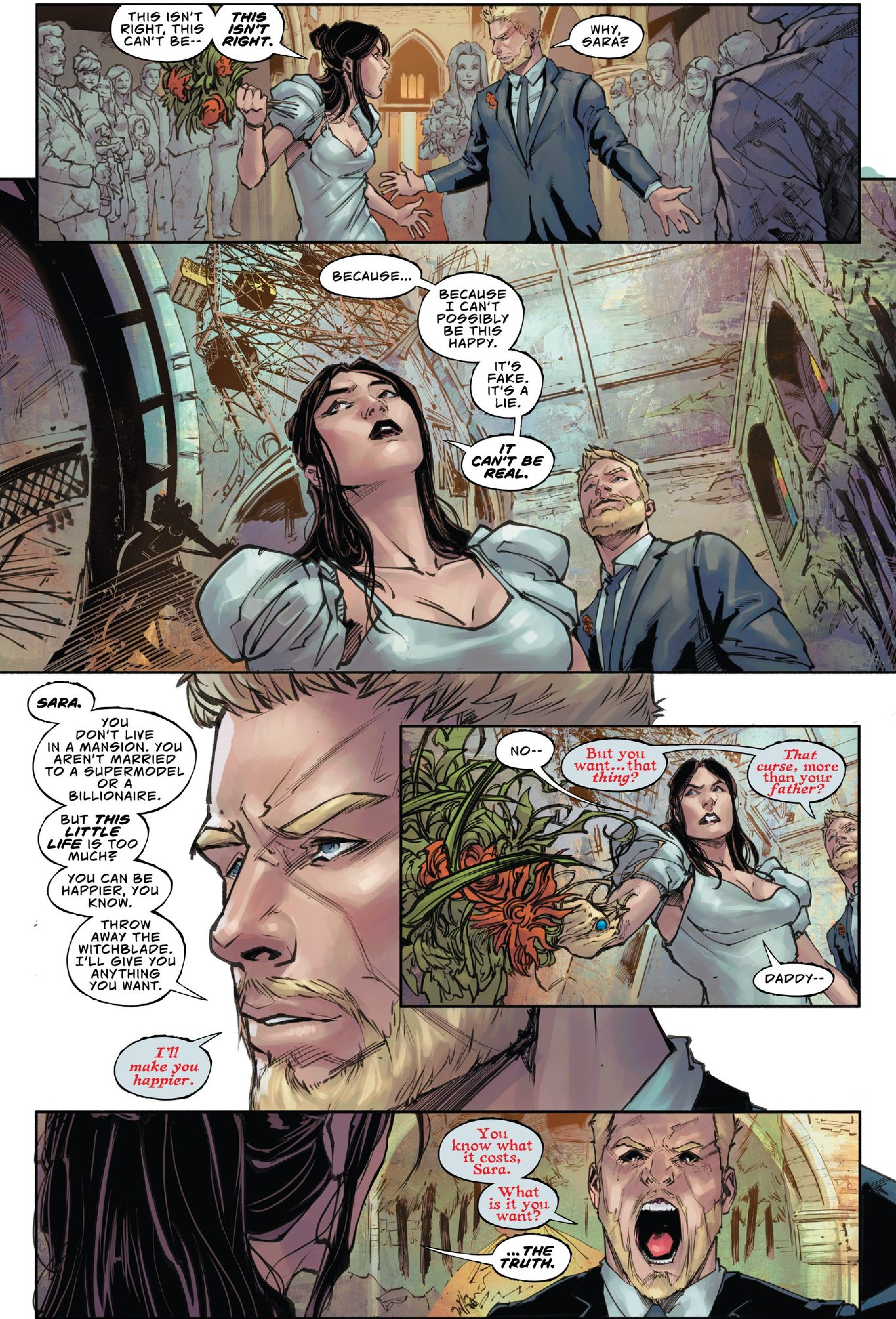

NEW YORK CITY.
THE APARTMENT OF JACKIE ESTACADO.
SARA--?!
SNORE YOU...BETTER NOT BE DREAMING OF NO OTHER GIRLS... YAWN
I CAN SMELL HER...
I CAN SMELL LILY OF THE VALLEY...
SMELL WHO?
WHAT THE ☠⚡★@, SARA...
WHY WERE YOU IN MY DREAM?
GOOD QUESTION, DUDE, WHO THE ☠⚡★@ IS "SARA"?

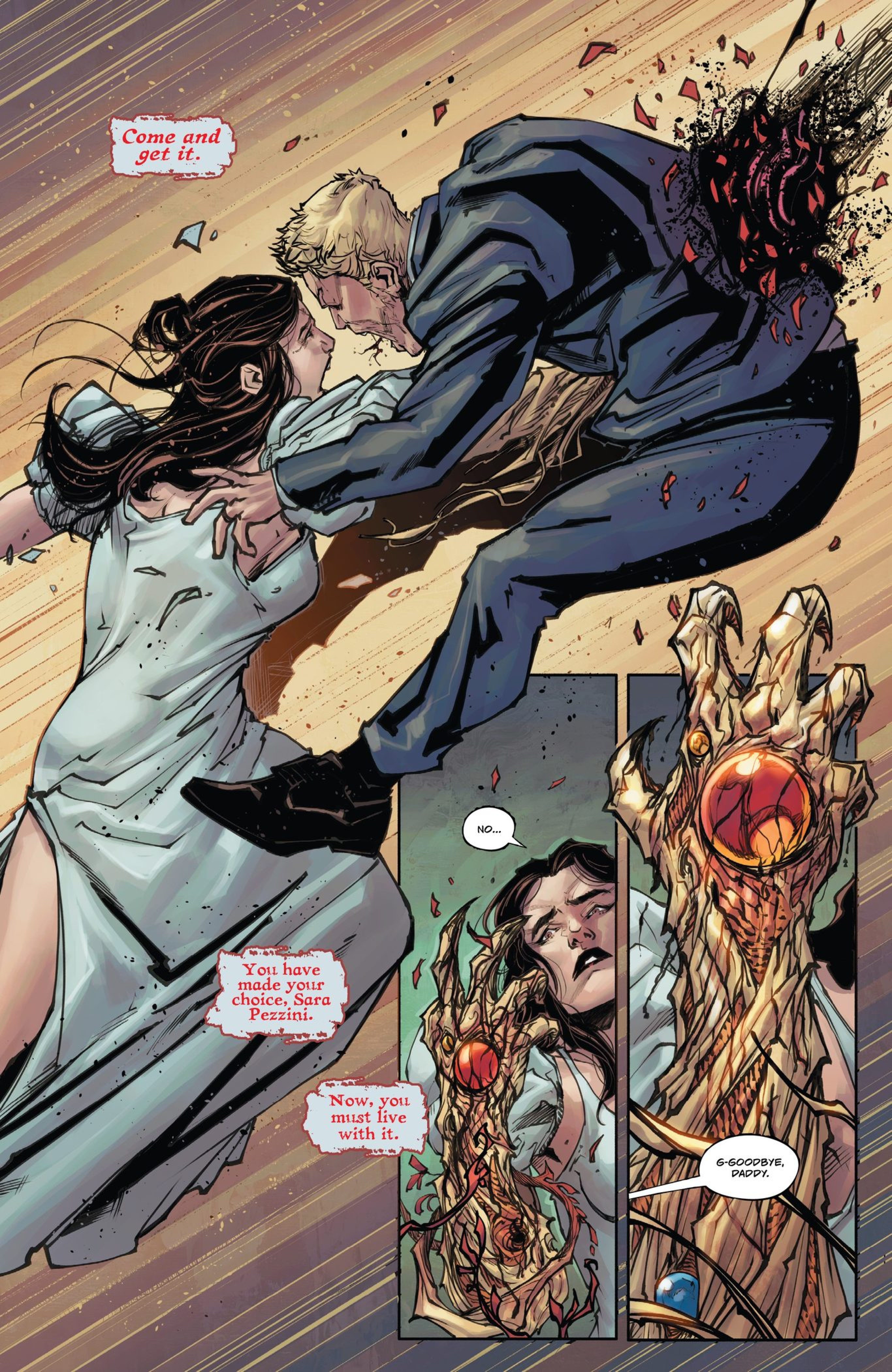

THE TRIAL.
I'VE FOUGHT THE TRIAL OF THE BODY.
NNNF!
FWUMP
I'VE FOUGHT THE TRIAL OF THE MIND.
WHAT MONSTER IS LEFT FOR ME TO FACE?
...DAD?
HEY THERE, MY NOT-SO-LITTLE SARA MAGDALENE.

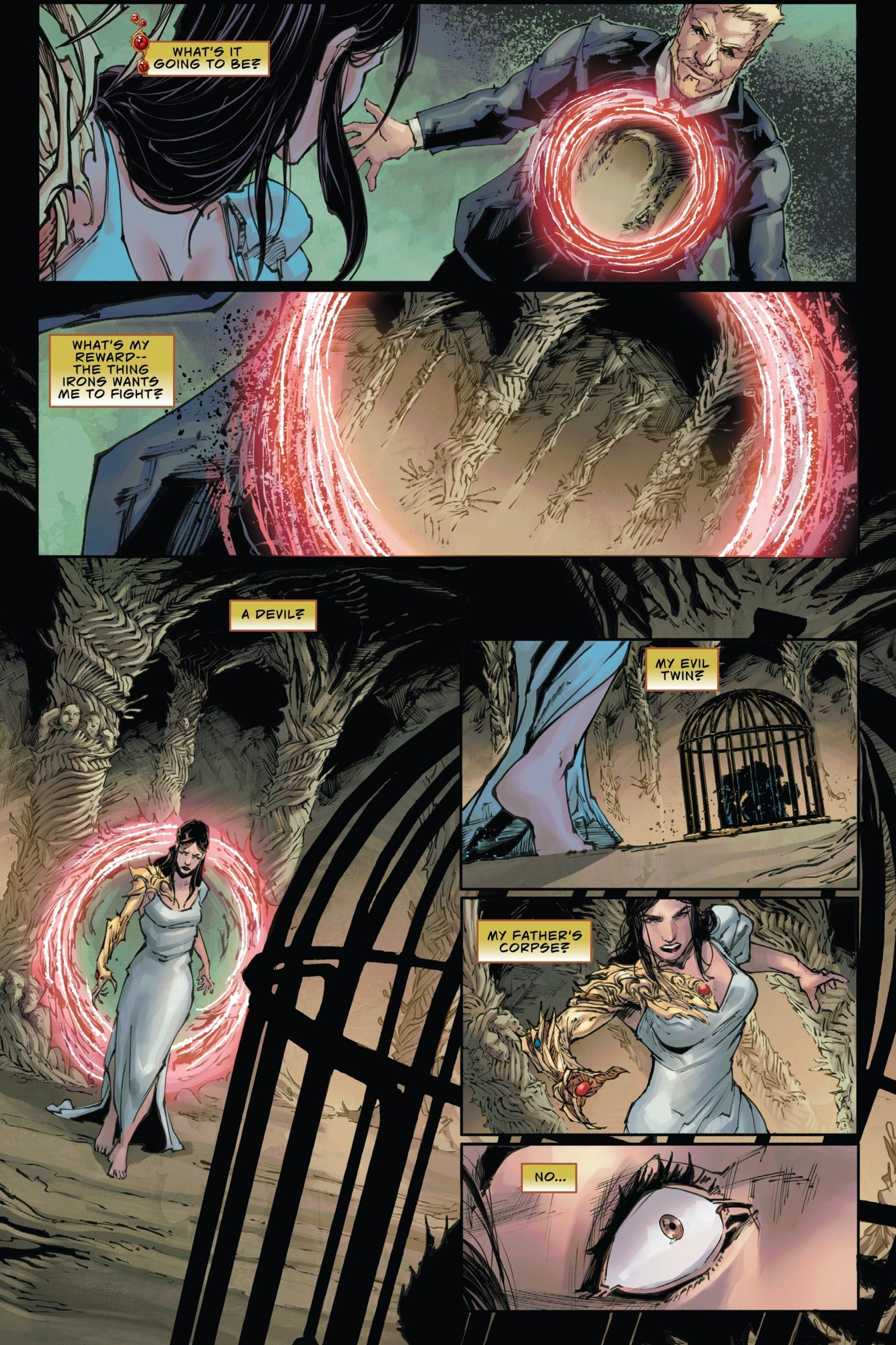

MY DAD IS ALIVE--
MY DAD NEVER DIED--
MY MOM NEVER LEFT--
MY LITTLE SISTER'S STILL HERE--
WELCOME TO
WONDER WHEEL
AMUSEMENT PARK
CONEY ISLAND
NEW

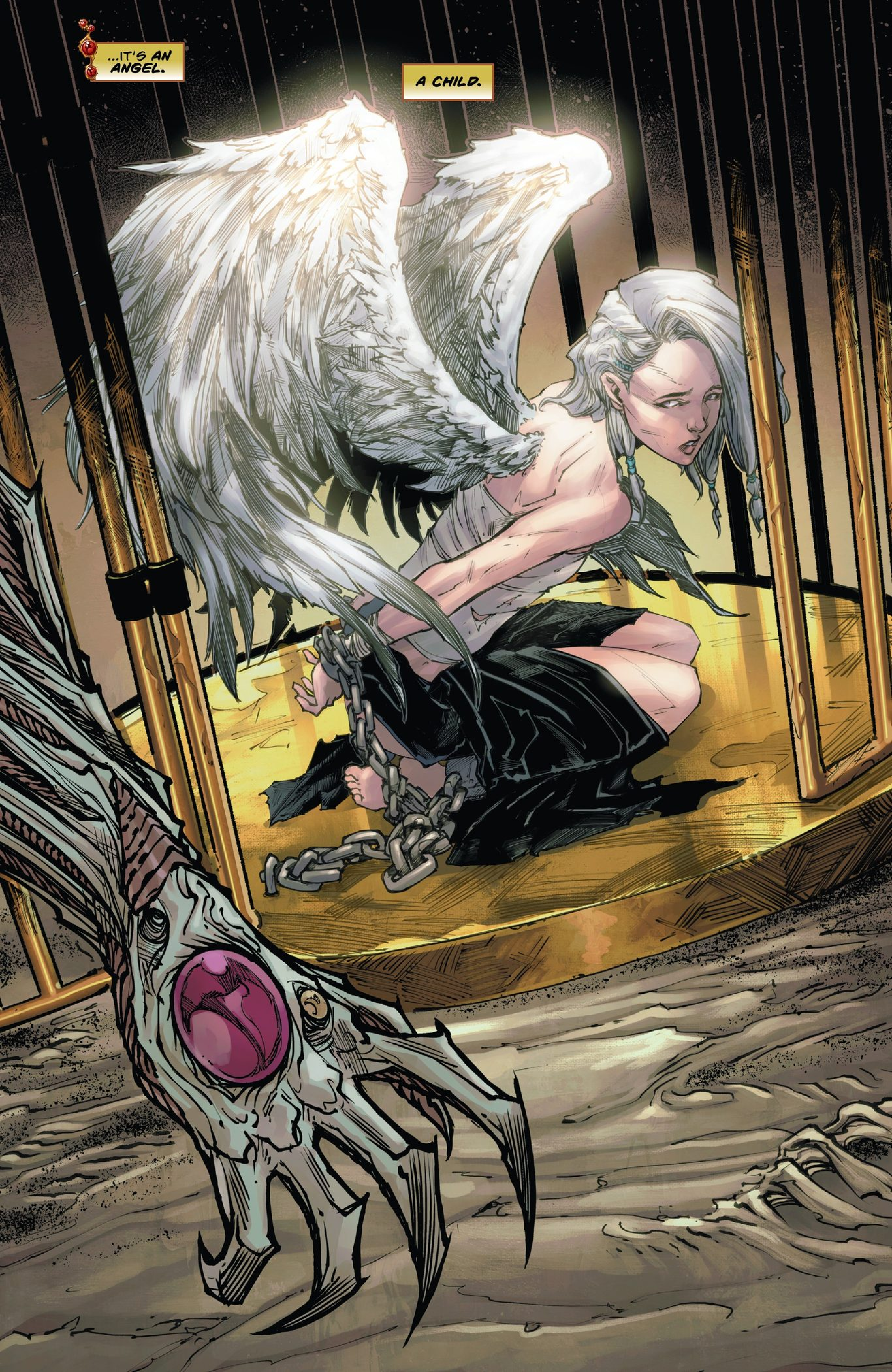

NONA IS KIND, NONA IS FORGIVING--
EVERYTHING IS WARM AND STABLE AND PERFECT--
SO MUCH HAPPINESS, I DIDN'T KNOW IT COULD FEEL THIS WAY--
BURSTING, BURSTING WITH JOY, FEELINGS THAT I'D NEVER KNOWN--
(NEVER?)
WHAT, YOU THINK I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT YOU AND KELLY WERE GETTING UP TO AT THOSE "SLEEPOVERS"?
I LOVE YOU, SARA. YOU'RE MY KID, NO MATTER WHAT.
I WANT THIS--
BUT THIS CAN'T BE REAL--
I NEVER TOOK REVENGE--
--POLICE OFFICER CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF HIS WIFE--
OFF-TO-COLLEGE **ROAD TRIP!**
NEVER ENLISTED--
--MASSACRE IN--
I KNOW YOU'RE GROWN, BUT CAN I STILL TELL JAKE TO HAVE YOU HOME BY ELEVEN?
NEVER JOINED THE ACADEMY--
--CORRUPTION CASE DECLARED A MISTRIAL--
THIS ME IS SOFT. **THIS ME** IS GENTLE.

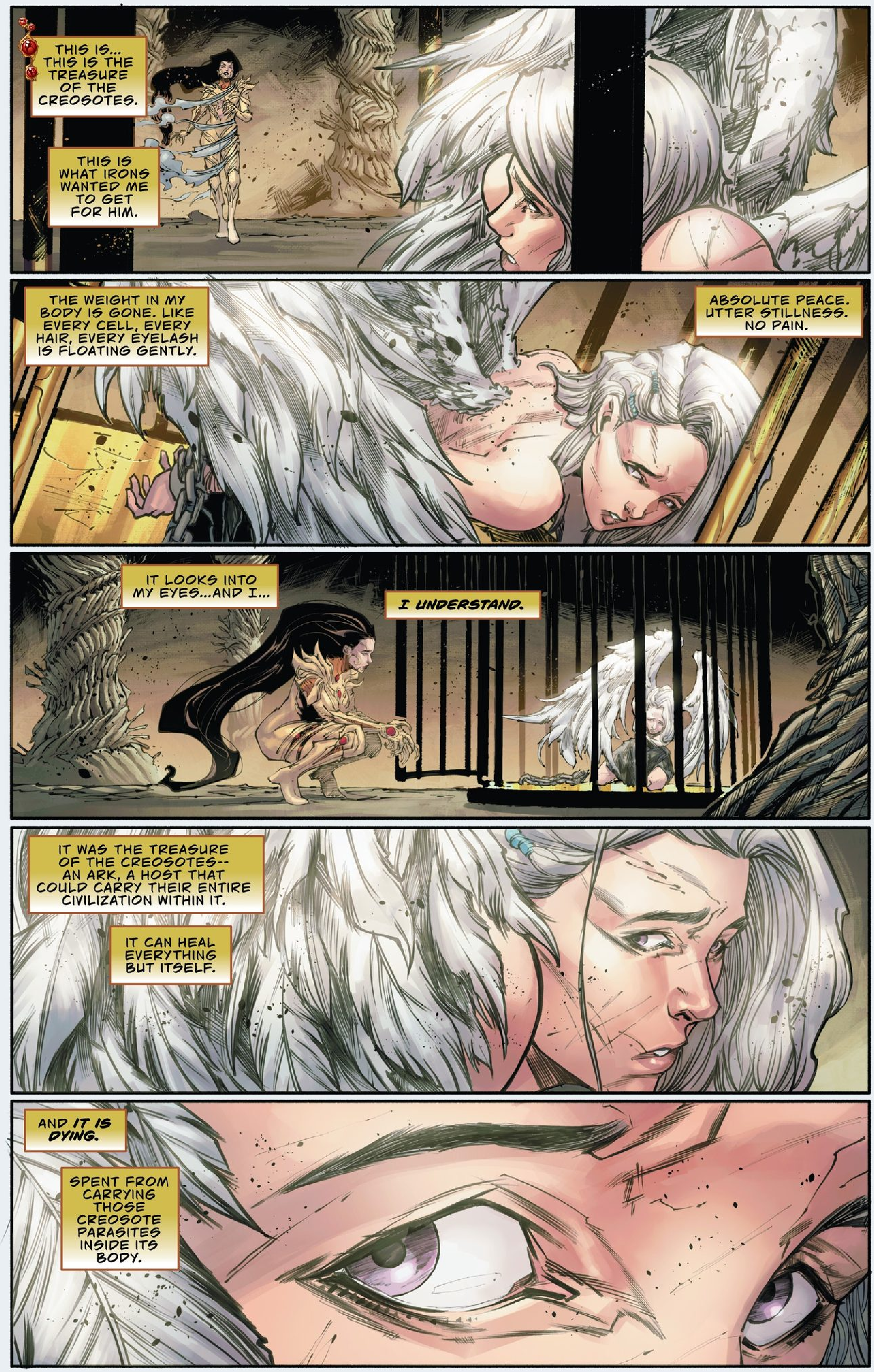

BECAUSE MY DAD IS HERE.
--SHIPPING CONTAINER OF DEAD MIGRANT WOMEN WASHED UP ON--
MY DAD IS HERE AND I'M HAPPY.
?
--SKINHEADS MURDERING CITY'S HOMELESS--
MY DAD IS HERE AND I'M SAFE.
--MOB AND GANG VIOLENCE AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH--
BUT THIS ISN'T RIGHT--
MY DAD IS HERE AND I'M LOVED.
WELCOME, DEARLY BELOVED, TO THE WEDDING OF SARA PEZZINI AND JAKE McCARTHY...
THIS *ISN'T RIGHT*--
--SPECIAL COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT, KENNETH IRONS--
STOP!

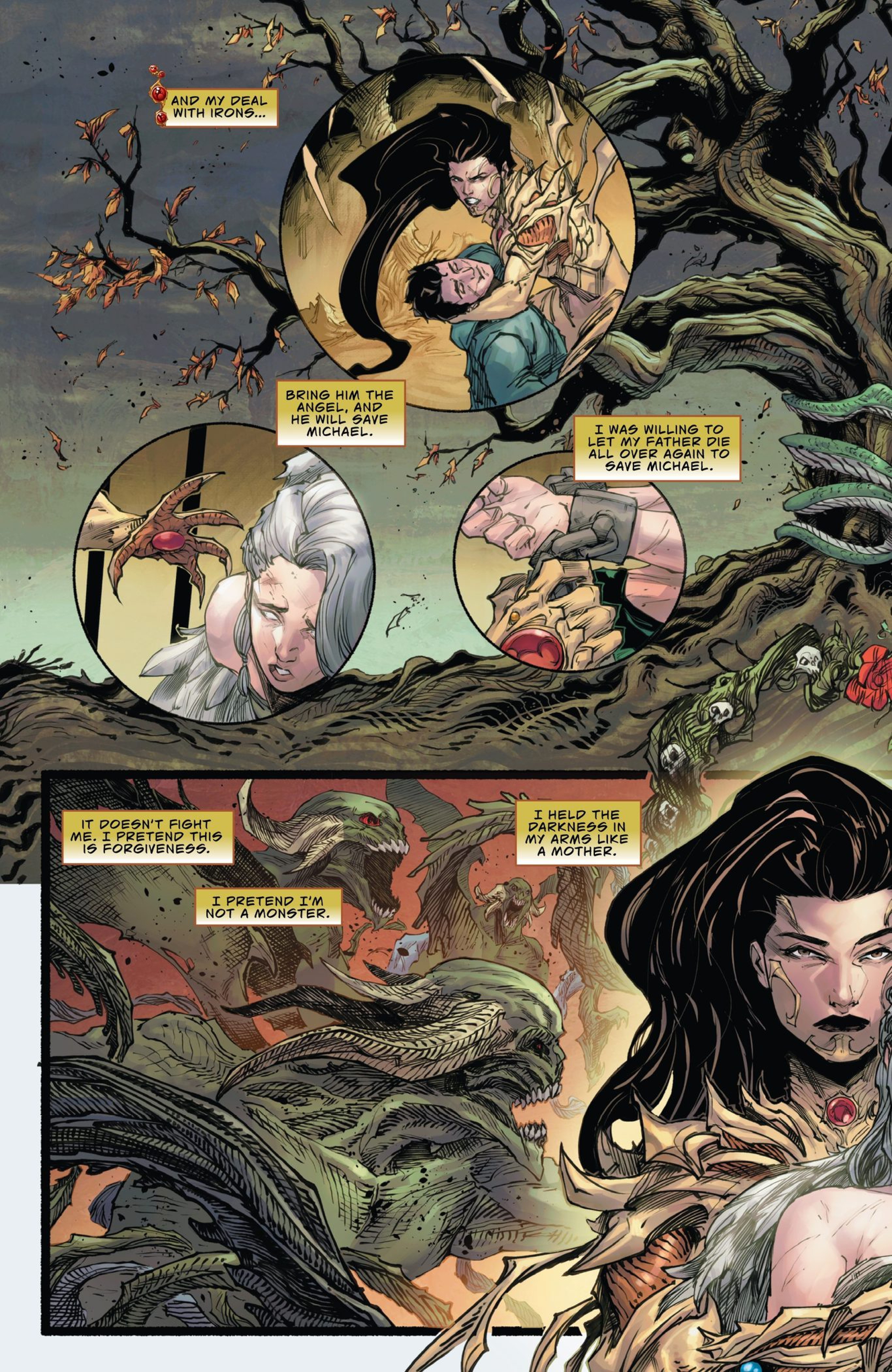

THIS ISN'T RIGHT, THIS CAN'T BE--
THIS ISN'T RIGHT.
WHY, SARA?
BECAUSE...
BECAUSE I CAN'T POSSIBLY BE THIS HAPPY.
IT'S FAKE. IT'S A LIE.
IT CAN'T BE REAL.
SARA.
YOU DON'T LIVE IN A MANSION. YOU AREN'T MARRIED TO A SUPERMODEL OR A BILLIONAIRE.
BUT **THIS LITTLE LIFE** IS TOO MUCH?
YOU CAN BE HAPPIER, YOU KNOW.
THROW AWAY THE WITCHBLADE. I'LL GIVE YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT.
I'll make you happier.
NO--
But you want...that *thing*?
That curse, more than your *father*?
DADDY--
You know what it costs, Sara.
What is it you want?
...THE TRUTH.

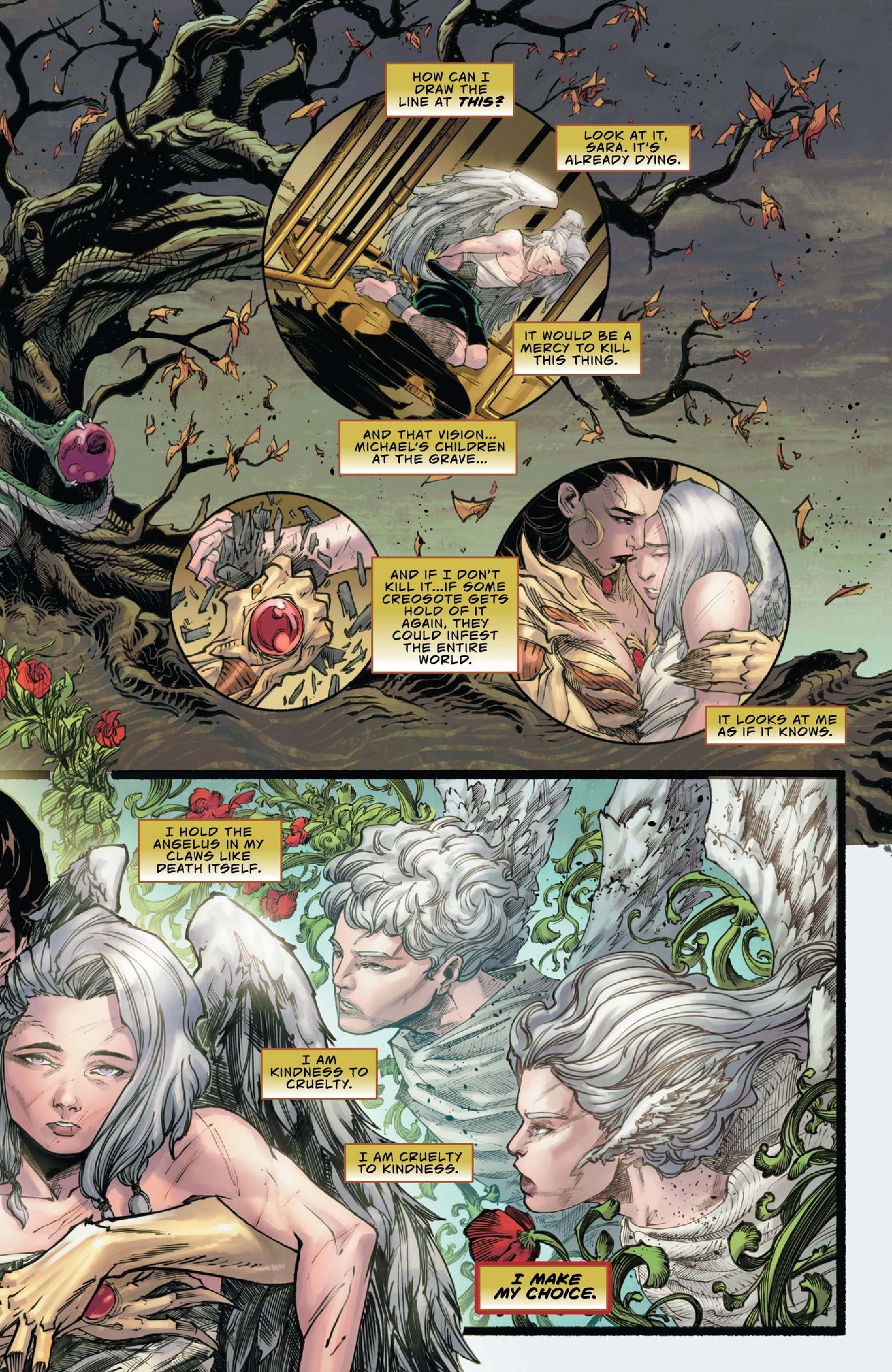

Come and get it.
NO...
You have made your choice, Sara Pezzini.
Now, you must live with it.
G-GOODBYE, DADDY.

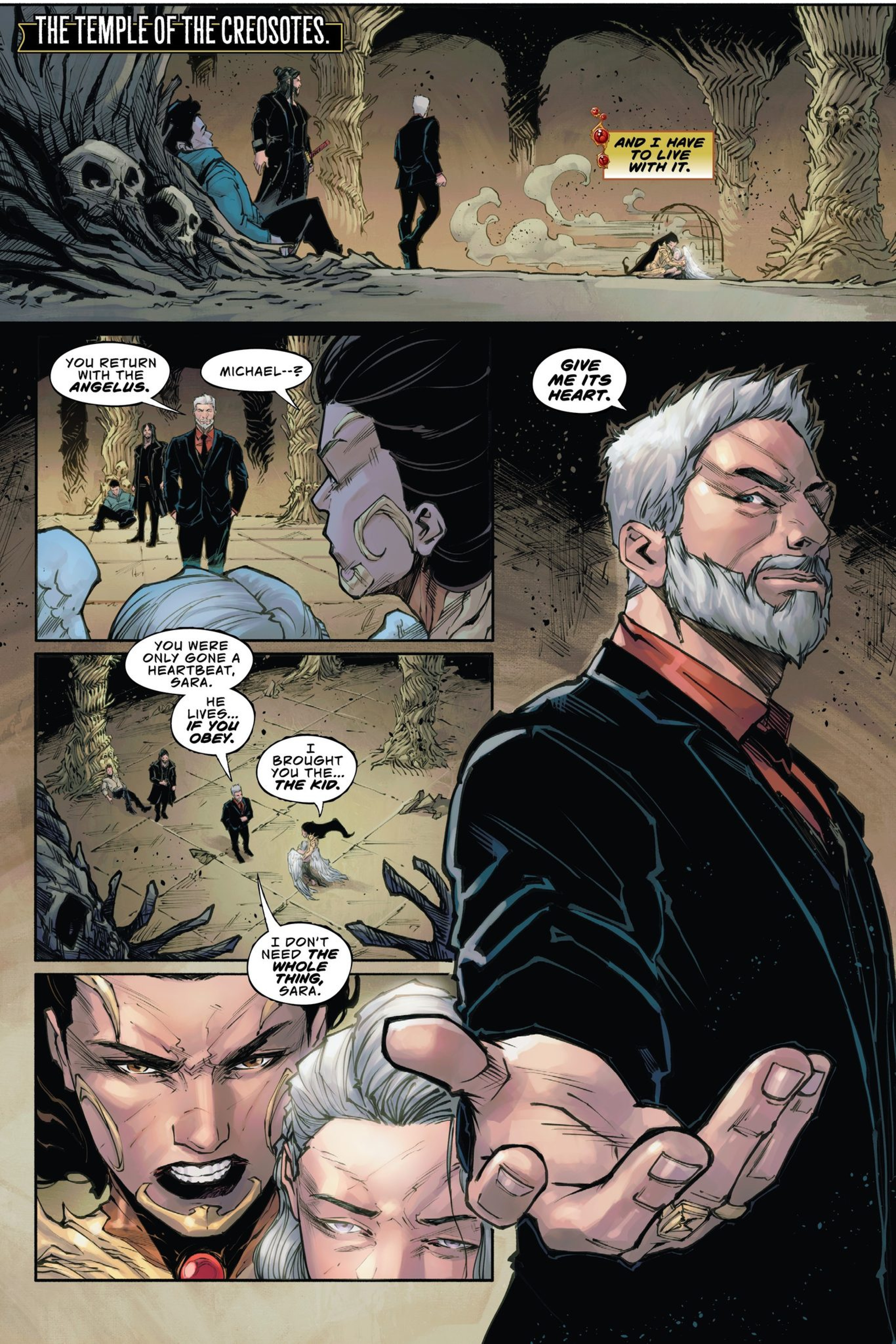

WHAT'S IT GOING TO BE?
WHAT'S MY REWARD-- THE THING IRONS WANTS ME TO FIGHT?
A DEVIL?
MY EVIL TWIN?
MY FATHER'S CORPSE?
NO...

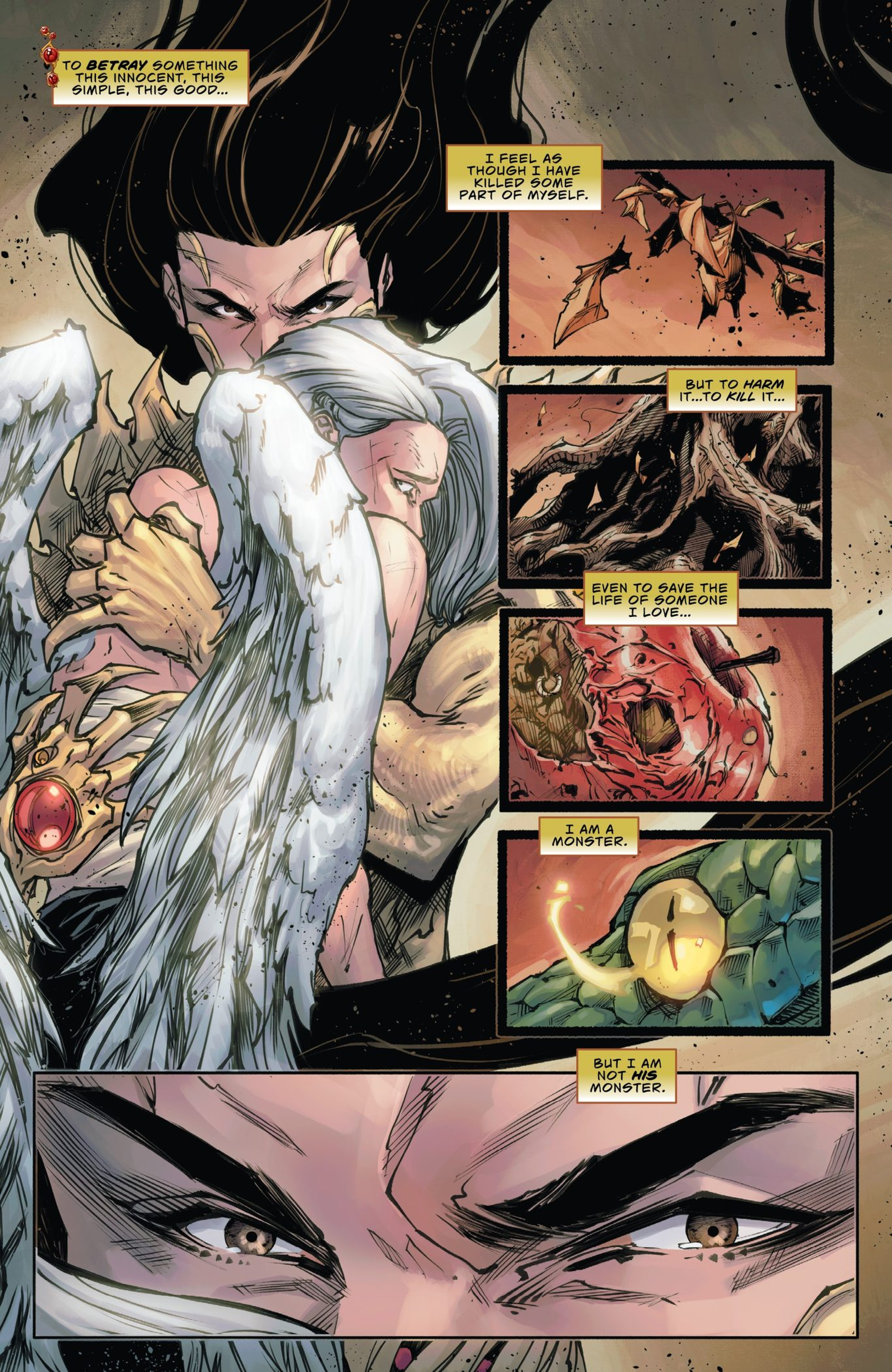

...IT'S AN ANGEL.
A CHILD.

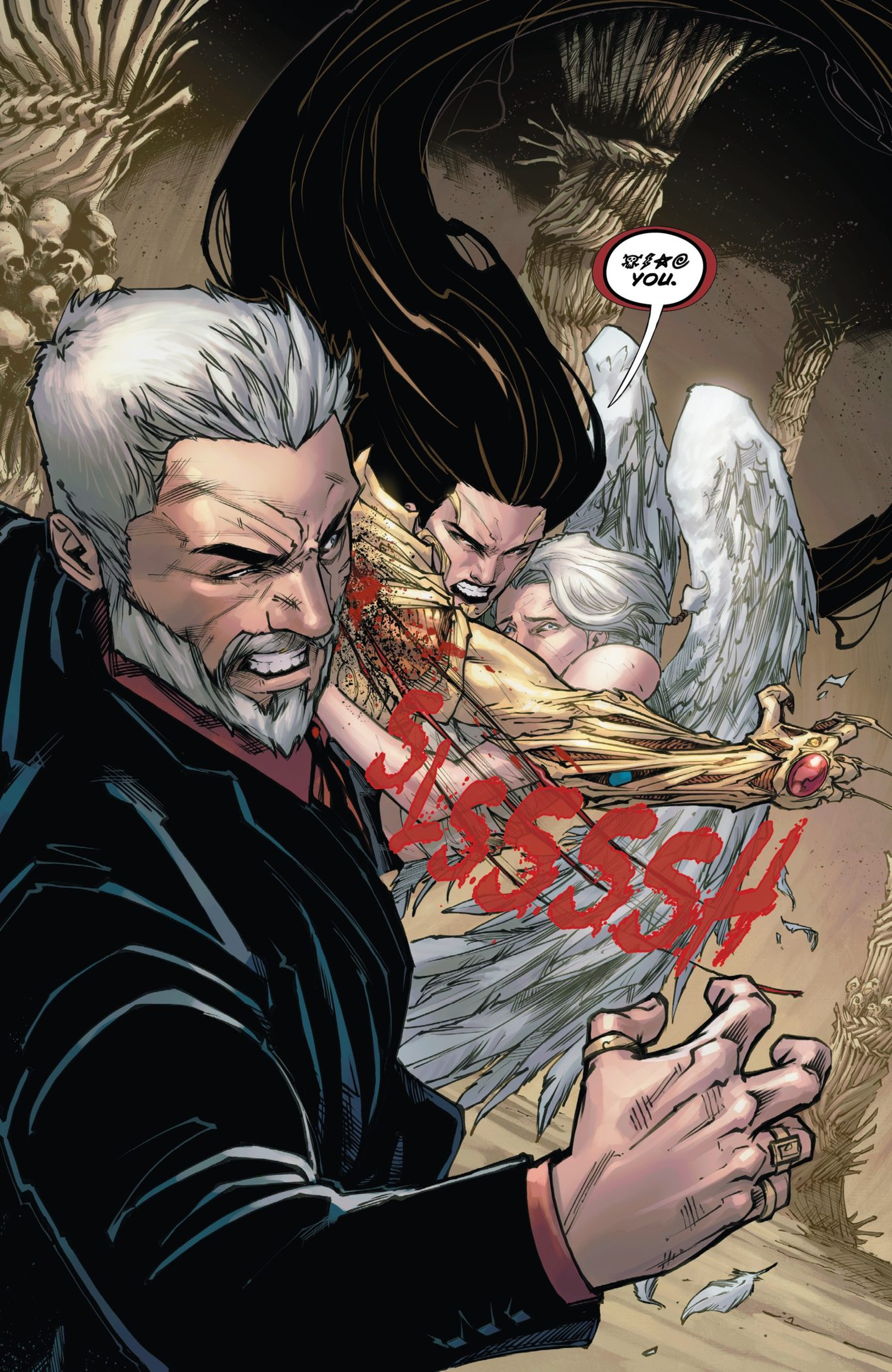

THIS IS... THIS IS THE TREASURE OF THE CREOSOTES.
THIS IS WHAT IRONS WANTED ME TO GET FOR HIM.
THE WEIGHT IN MY BODY IS GONE. LIKE EVERY CELL, EVERY HAIR, EVERY EYELASH IS FLOATING GENTLY.
ABSOLUTE PEACE. UTTER STILLNESS. NO PAIN.
IT LOOKS INTO MY EYES...AND I...
I UNDERSTAND.
IT WAS THE TREASURE OF THE CREOSOTES-- AN ARK, A HOST THAT COULD CARRY THEIR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION WITHIN IT.
IT CAN HEAL EVERYTHING BUT ITSELF.
AND *IT IS DYING.*
SPENT FROM CARRYING THOSE CREOSOTE PARASITES INSIDE ITS BODY.

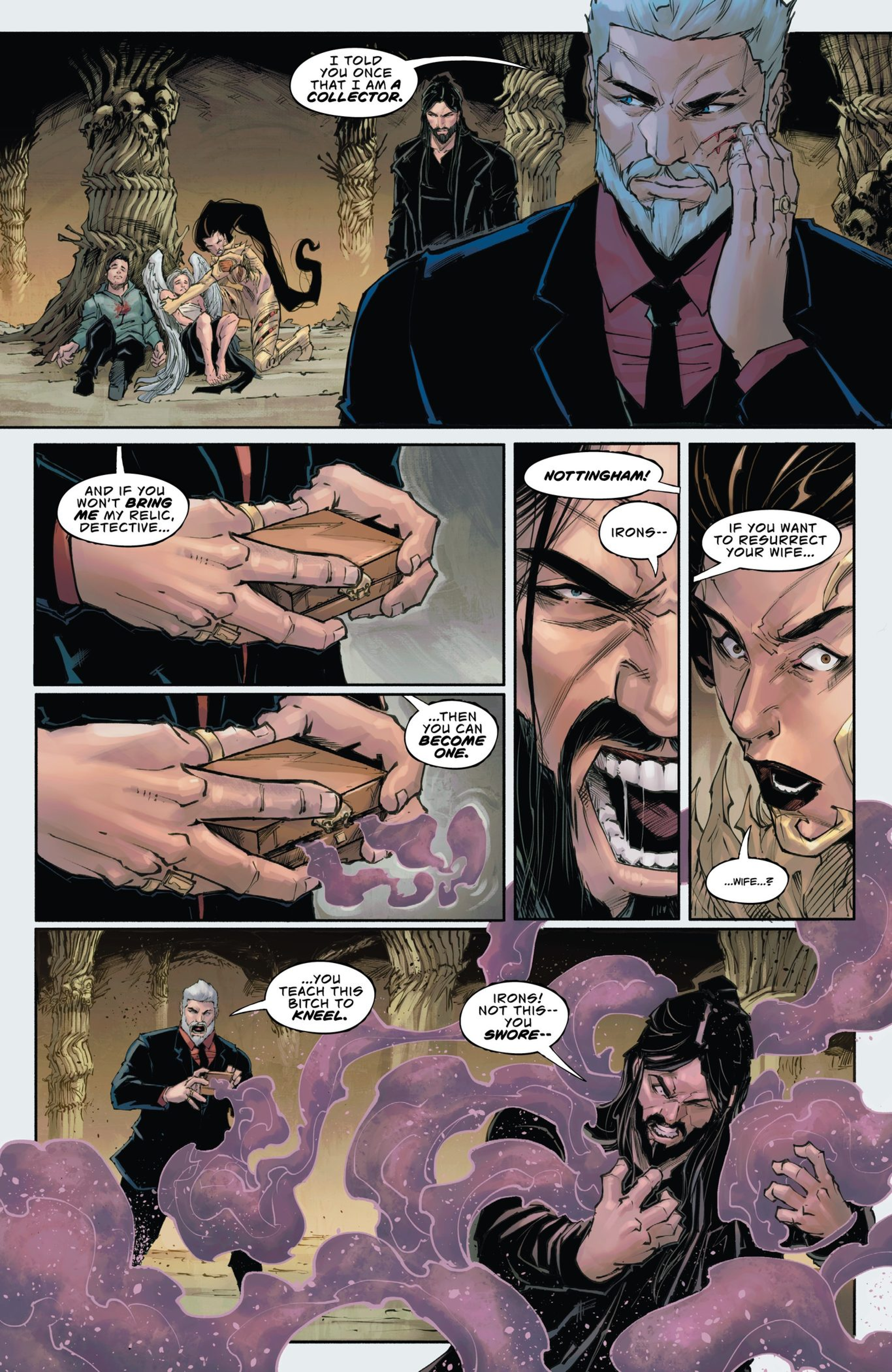

AND MY DEAL WITH IRONS...
BRING HIM THE ANGEL, AND HE WILL SAVE MICHAEL.
I WAS WILLING TO LET MY FATHER DIE ALL OVER AGAIN TO SAVE MICHAEL.
IT DOESN'T FIGHT ME. I PRETEND THIS IS FORGIVENESS.
I PRETEND I'M NOT A MONSTER.
I HELD THE DARKNESS IN MY ARMS LIKE A MOTHER.

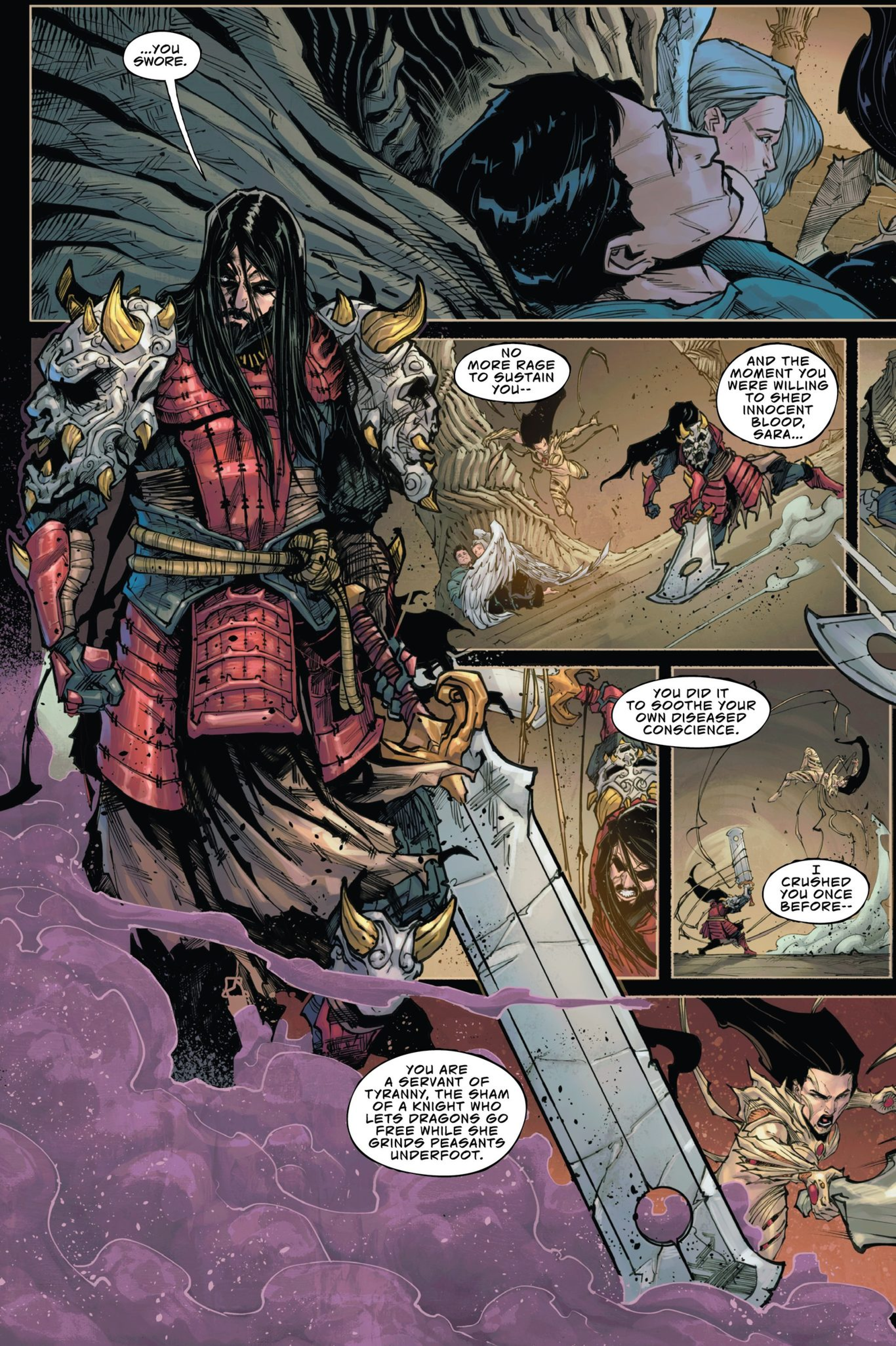

HOW CAN I DRAW THE LINE AT *THIS?*
LOOK AT IT, SARA. IT'S ALREADY DYING.
IT WOULD BE A MERCY TO KILL THIS THING.
AND THAT VISION... MICHAEL'S CHILDREN AT THE GRAVE...
AND IF I DON'T KILL IT...IF SOME CREOSOTE GETS HOLD OF IT AGAIN, THEY COULD INFEST THE ENTIRE WORLD.
IT LOOKS AT ME AS IF IT KNOWS.
I HOLD THE ANGELUS IN MY CLAWS LIKE DEATH ITSELF.
I AM KINDNESS TO CRUELTY.
I AM CRUELTY TO KINDNESS.
I MAKE MY CHOICE.

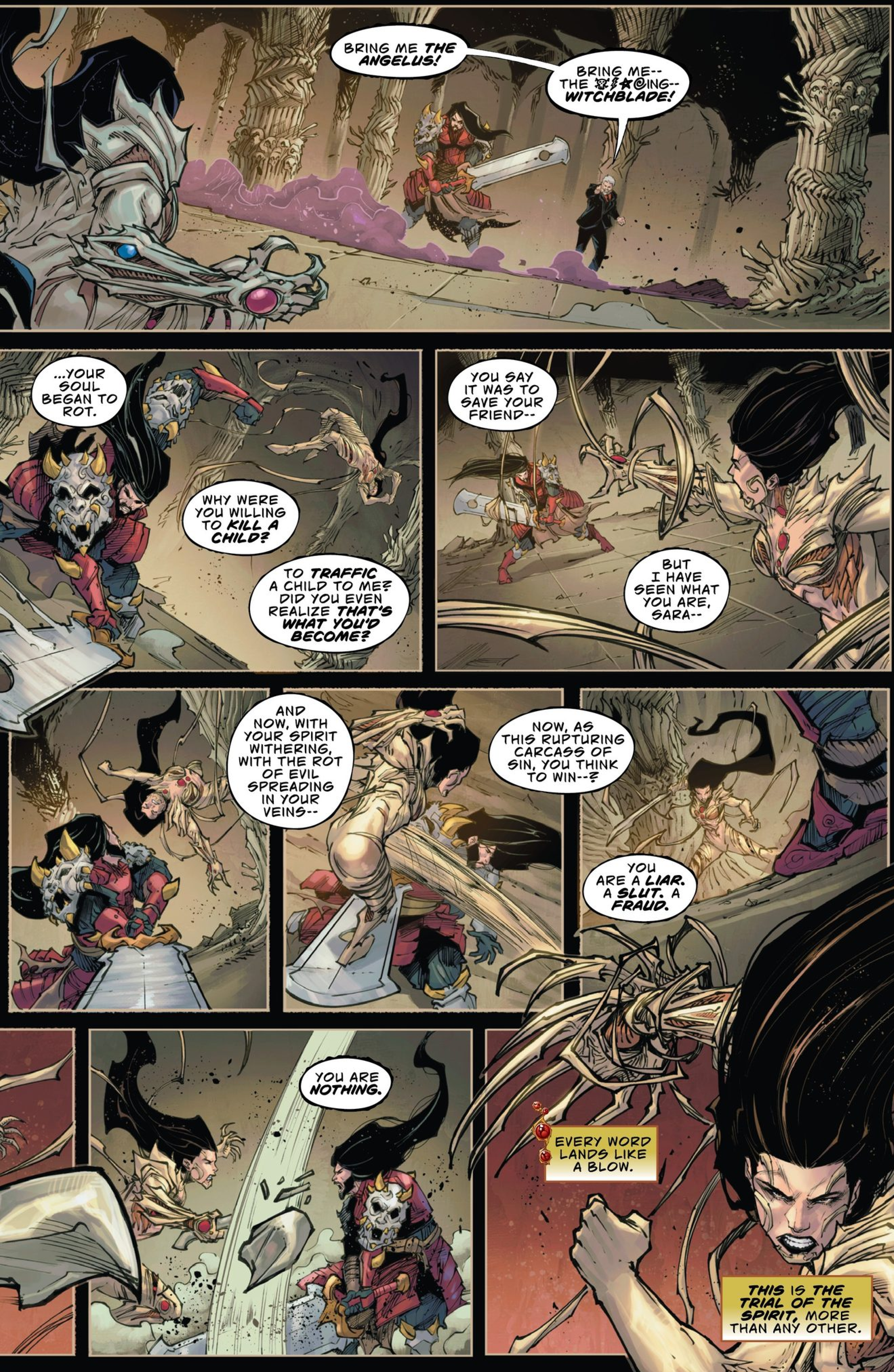

THE TEMPLE OF THE CREOSOTES.
AND I HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT.
YOU RETURN WITH THE *ANGELUS.*
MICHAEL--?
GIVE ME ITS HEART.
YOU WERE ONLY GONE A HEARTBEAT, SARA.
HE LIVES... *IF YOU OBEY.*
I BROUGHT YOU THE... *THE KID.*
I DON'T NEED *THE WHOLE THING,* SARA.

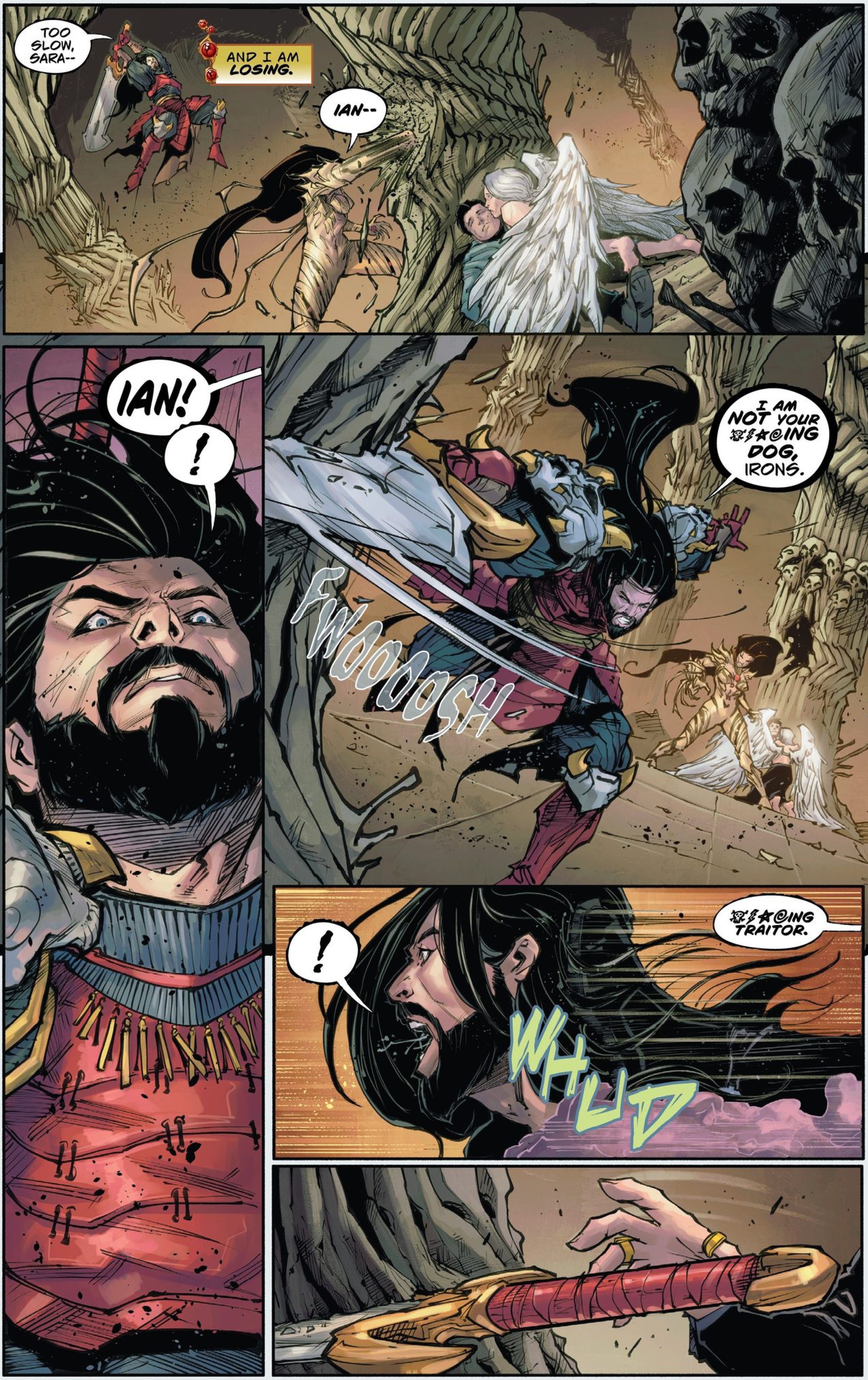

TO ***BETRAY*** SOMETHING THIS INNOCENT, THIS SIMPLE, THIS GOOD...
I FEEL AS THOUGH I HAVE KILLED SOME PART OF MYSELF.
BUT TO ***HARM*** IT...TO ***KILL*** IT...
EVEN TO SAVE THE LIFE OF SOMEONE I LOVE...
I AM A MONSTER.
BUT I AM NOT ***HIS*** MONSTER.

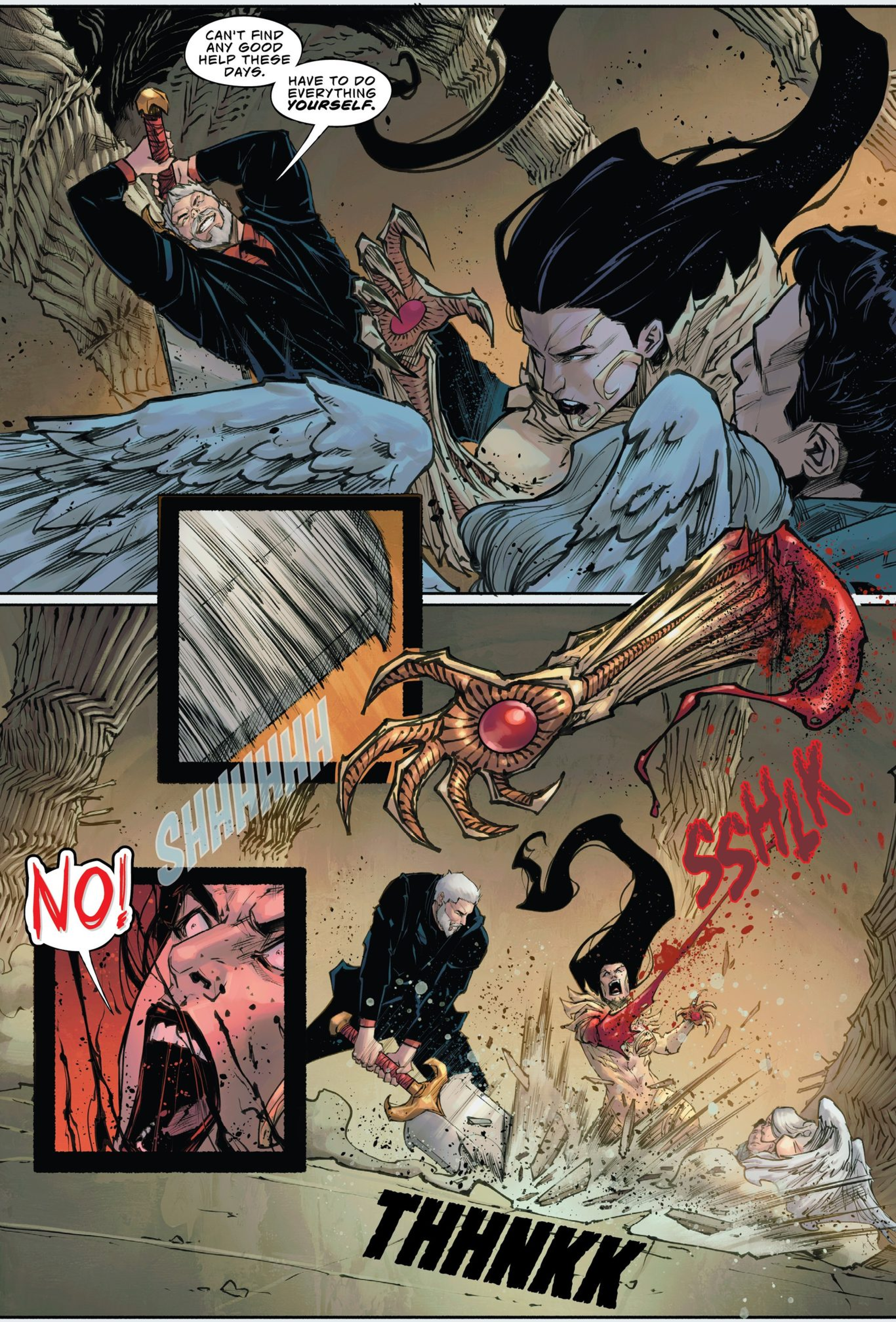

#$★@ YOU.
SLSSSSH

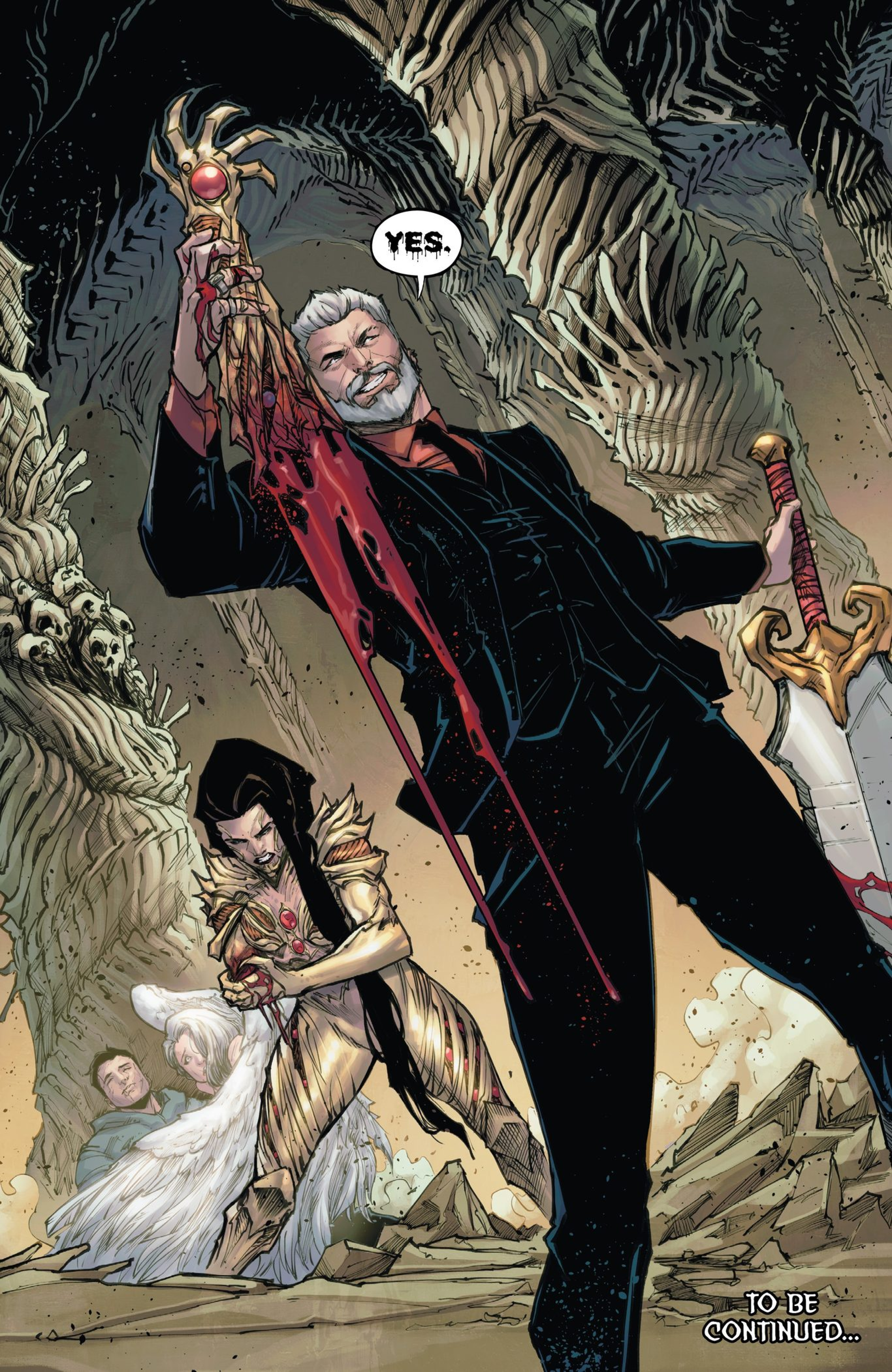

I TOLD YOU ONCE THAT I AM **A COLLECTOR.**
AND IF YOU WON'T **BRING ME** MY RELIC, DETECTIVE...
...THEN YOU CAN **BECOME ONE.**
NOTTINGHAM!
IRONS--
IF YOU WANT TO RESURRECT YOUR WIFE...
...WIFE...?
...YOU TEACH THIS BITCH TO **KNEEL.**
IRONS! NOT THIS-- YOU **SWORE--**


...YOU SWORE.
NO MORE RAGE TO SUSTAIN YOU--
AND THE MOMENT YOU WERE WILLING TO SHED INNOCENT BLOOD, SARA...
YOU DID IT TO SOOTHE YOUR OWN DISEASED CONSCIENCE.
I CRUSHED YOU ONCE BEFORE--
YOU ARE A SERVANT OF TYRANNY, THE SHAM OF A KNIGHT WHO LETS DRAGONS GO FREE WHILE SHE GRINDS PEASANTS UNDERFOOT.


BRING ME THE ANGELUS!
BRING ME-- THE ☠⚡★@ING-- WITCHBLADE!
...YOUR SOUL BEGAN TO ROT.
WHY WERE YOU WILLING TO KILL A CHILD?
TO TRAFFIC A CHILD TO ME? DID YOU EVEN REALIZE THAT'S WHAT YOU'D BECOME?
YOU SAY IT WAS TO SAVE YOUR FRIEND--
BUT I HAVE SEEN WHAT YOU ARE, SARA--
AND NOW, WITH YOUR SPIRIT WITHERING, WITH THE ROT OF EVIL SPREADING IN YOUR VEINS--
NOW, AS THIS RUPTURING CARCASS OF SIN, YOU THINK TO WIN--?
YOU ARE A LIAR. A SLUT. A FRAUD.
YOU ARE NOTHING.
EVERY WORD LANDS LIKE A BLOW.
THIS IS THE TRIAL OF THE SPIRIT, MORE THAN ANY OTHER.


TOO SLOW, SARA--
AND I AM LOSING.
IAN--
IAN!
!
FWOOOOSH
I AM NOT YOUR ☠⚡✫@ING DOG, IRONS.
!
☠⚡✫@ING TRAITOR.
WHUD

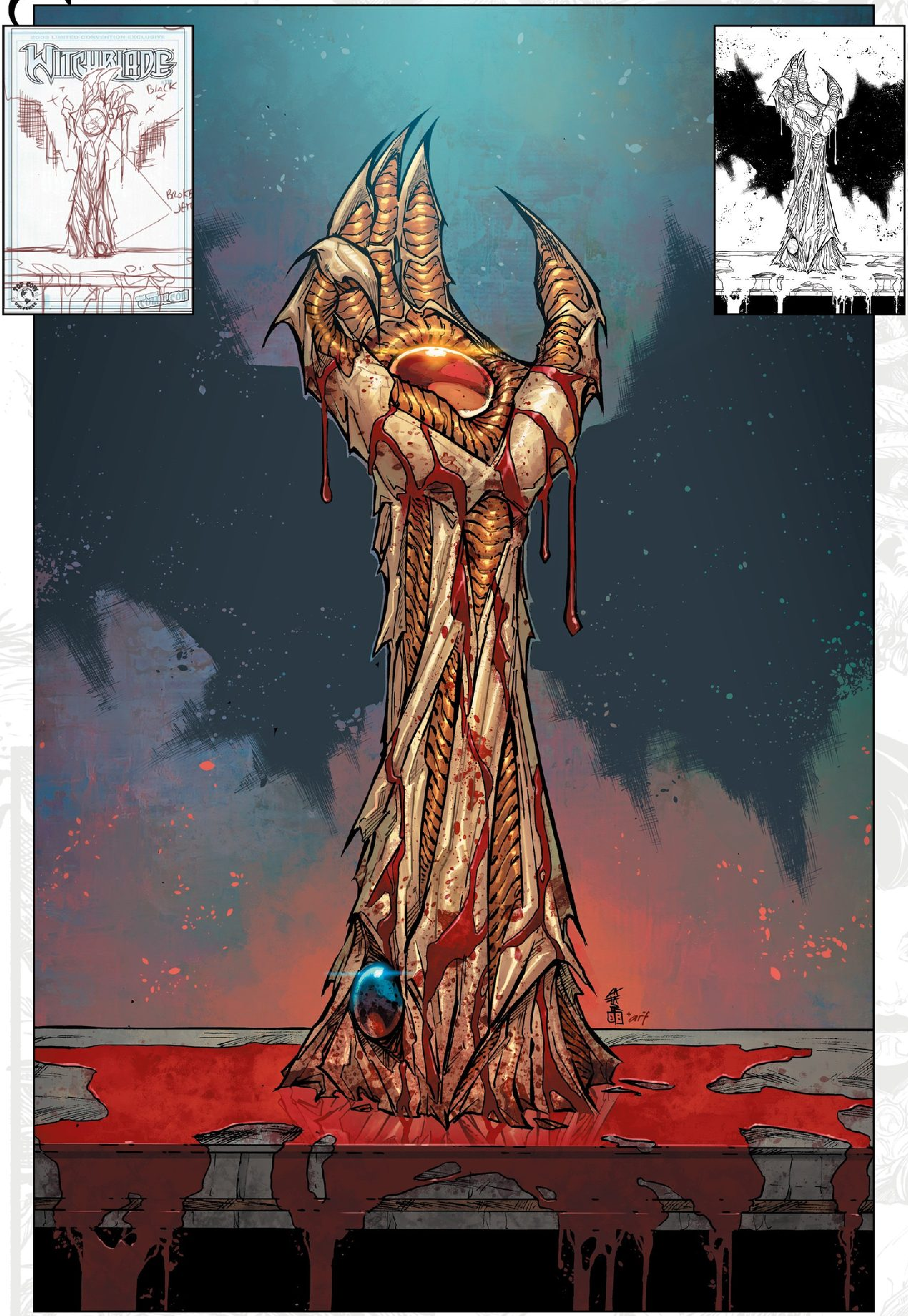

CAN'T FIND ANY GOOD HELP THESE DAYS.
HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING ***YOURSELF.***
SHHHHHH
NO!
SSHLK
THHNKK


YES.
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT ISSUE!

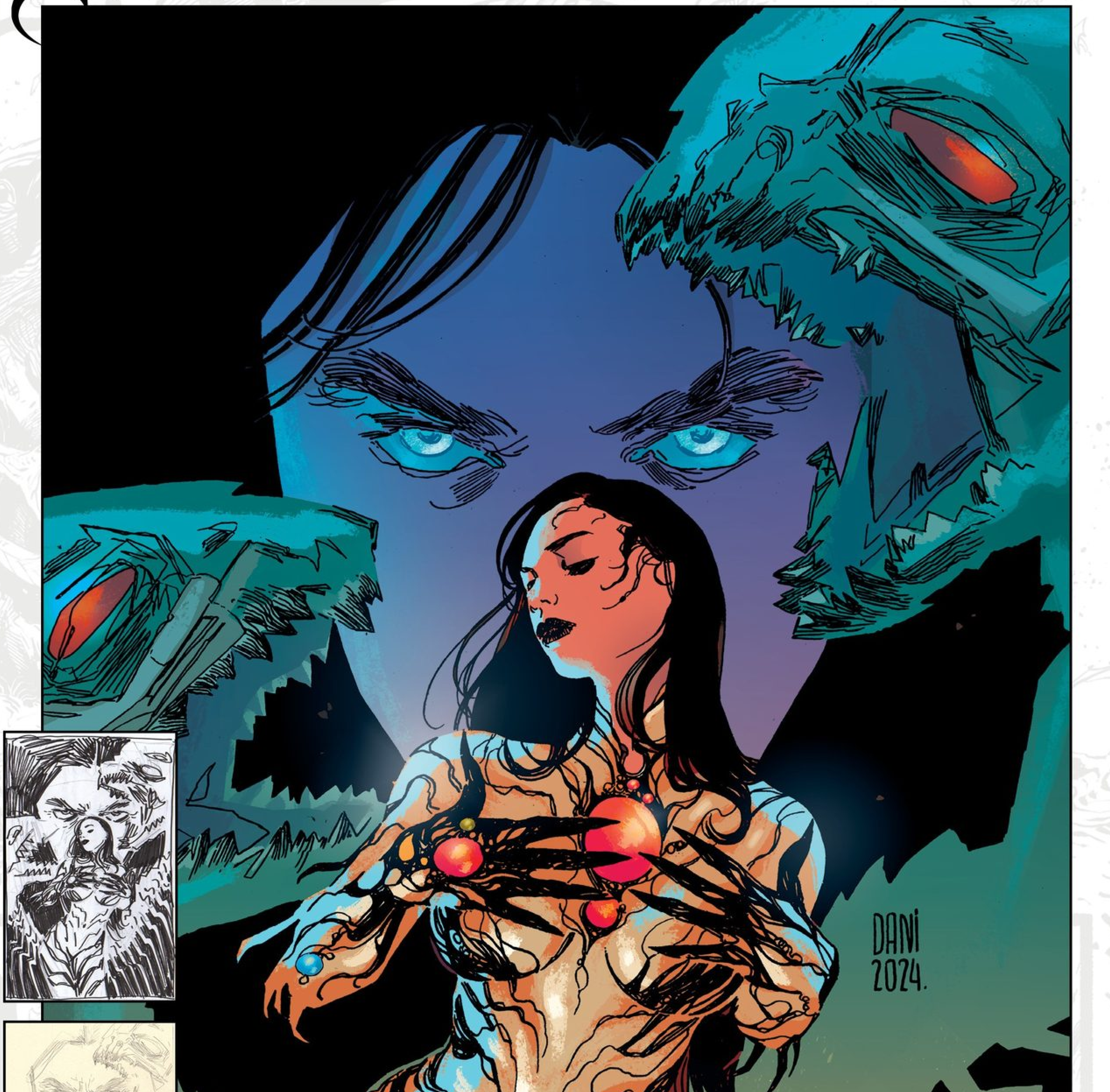
"STARS"

WITCHBLADE #12 Gallery • Cover A Process


2008 LIMITED CONVENTION EXCLUSIVE
WITCHBLADE
BLACK
comic con
arif

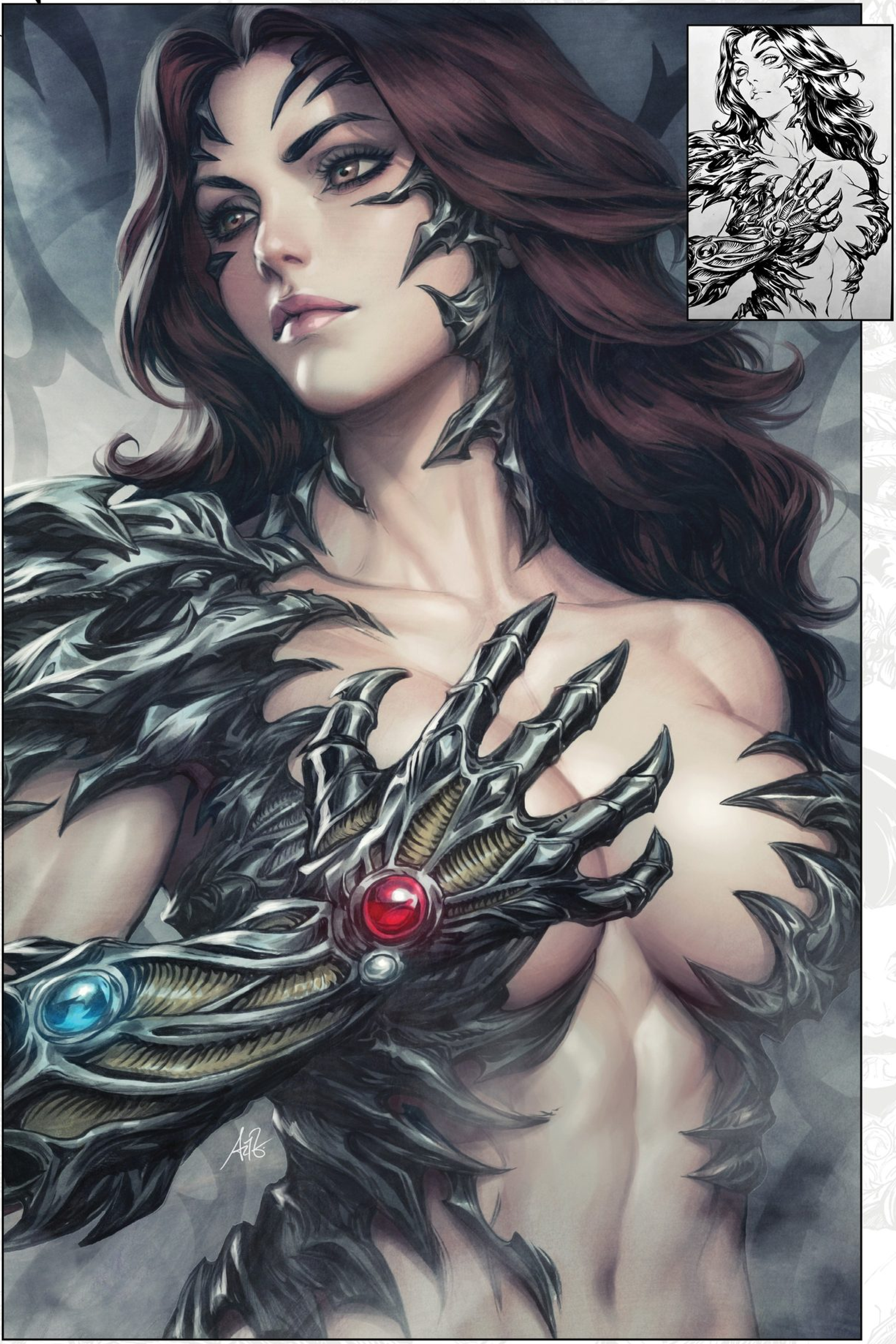
Witchblade #12, Cover A, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro** and **Arif Prianto**

WITCHBLADE #12 Gallery • Cover B Process



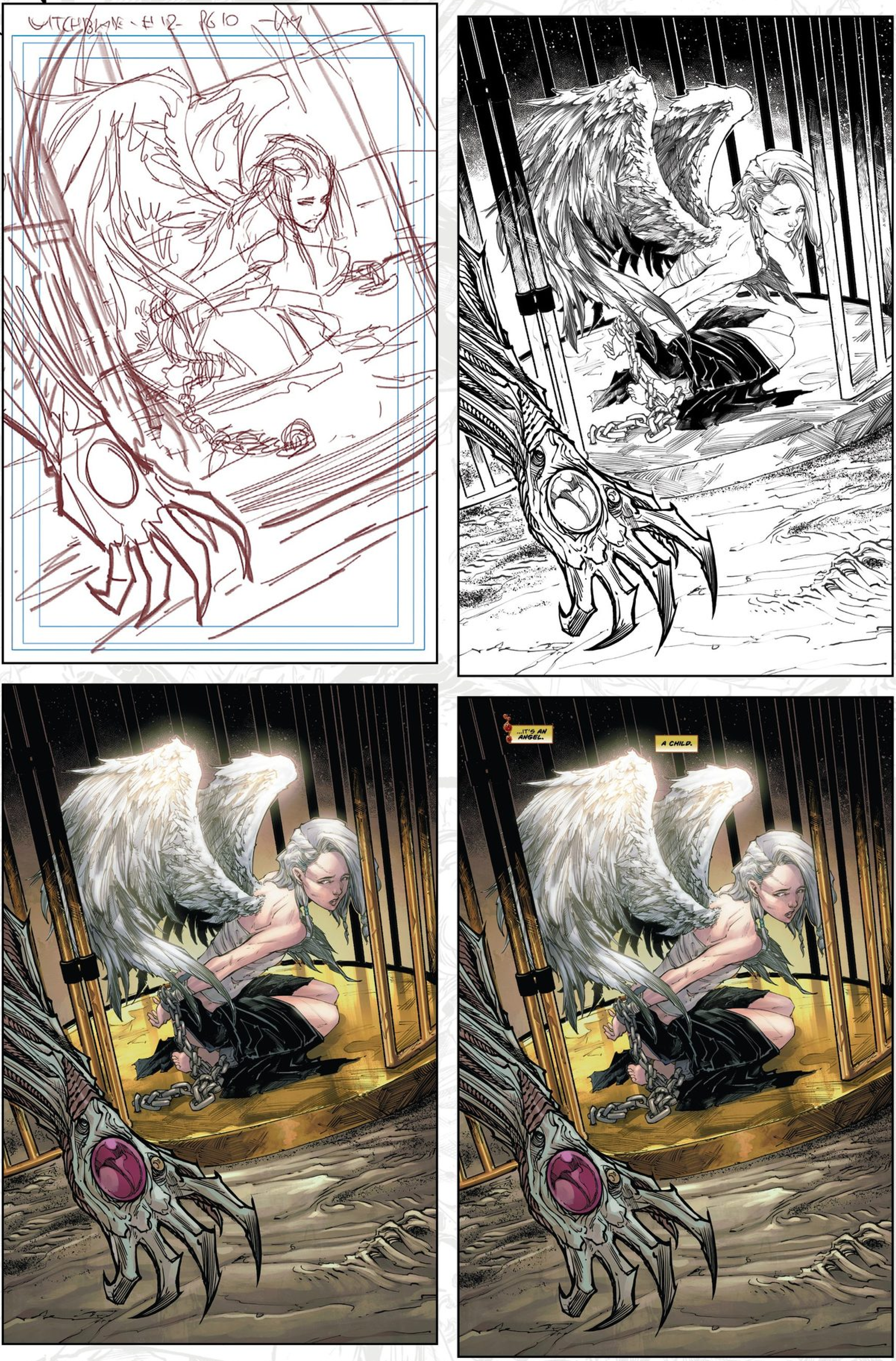
Witchblade #12, Cover B, D, E and Top Cow Store Foil Exclusive, process from thumbnail, line art to colors
Art by **Dani** and **Brad Simpson**

WITCHBLADE #12 Gallery • Cover C Process



Witchblade #12, Cover C, F, Top Cow Convention Spot Foil Exclusive and Artgerm Collectibles Foil Exclusive, process from line art to colors • Art by **Artgerm**

WITCHBLADE #12 Gallery • Page Process


WITCHBLADE - #12 - PG 10 - GA
...IT'S AN ANGEL.
A CHILD.

Witchblade #12, page 10, process from thumbnail, line art, colors to letters
Art by **Giuseppe Cafaro, Arif Prianto** and **Troy Peteri**

Creative Team

Marguerite Bennett is a GLAAD-nominated, *New York Times*-bestselling comic book writer based in Los Angeles.

Her credits include DC Comics' *Bombshells, Batwoman* and *RWBY*, along with *Animosity*, *Horde*, and *Insexts* through Aftershock Comics, and *MOTHER OF MADNESS* with *Game of Thrones* superstar Emilia Clarke for Image Comics. She has written *Mighty Morphin Power Ranger*s for Boom Studios, *Josie and the Pussycats* through Archie, *A-Force* and *Years of Future Past* at Marvel, *Red Sonja* and *Sheena* from Dynamite, and the indie horror darling *The Lot* for Bad Idea.

She is the lead writer of *Ark: The Animated Serie*s from Studio Wildcard.

Giuseppe Cafaro is an Italian artist who is based in Caserta, Italy. He started his professional career with the Italian publisher GGStudio, and right after, in 2012, he started to work for Aspen Comics on books like *Soulfire, Fathom: Kiani* and *Trish out of Water*, and Zenescope Entertainment as a cover artist for several years.

He worked over the last 10 years with other publishers, like DC Comics, on *Suicide Squad* and *Catwoman*, and Dynamite Entertainment, on *Red Sonja* and *Vampirella*. He also worked on graphic novels for Boom Studios based on the *Power Rangers* franchise.

In 2021, he collaborated with Tim Seeley and Steve Orlando on *LOADED BIBLE* for Image Comics. Also, he worked on some short stories for Heavy Metal with Blake Northcott and with Phil Smith for the book *Brik Jones: Attorney for Earth*, for his publisher Fighting Lion Comics.

Arif Prianto followed his dreams of working in comics and began his career as a professional colorist in 2007. Since then he has worked on titles from Top Cow Productions, Inc on *WITCHBLADE, THE DARKNESS*, for DC on *Batman & The Joker, Dark Knights of Steel,* and for Marvel on *Venom* and *Spider Woman*. He says that coloring comics is "the best job ever!"

Troy Peteri has been lettering comics for over 20 years and has worked for most publishers you've heard of, and plenty you haven't. He's lettered everything from *The Avengers, Iron Man, Wolverine,* and *Amazing Spider-Man* to more recent titles such as *WITCHBLADE*, *Shazam*, and his all-time favorite gig, *Batman & Joker: The Deadly Duo*.

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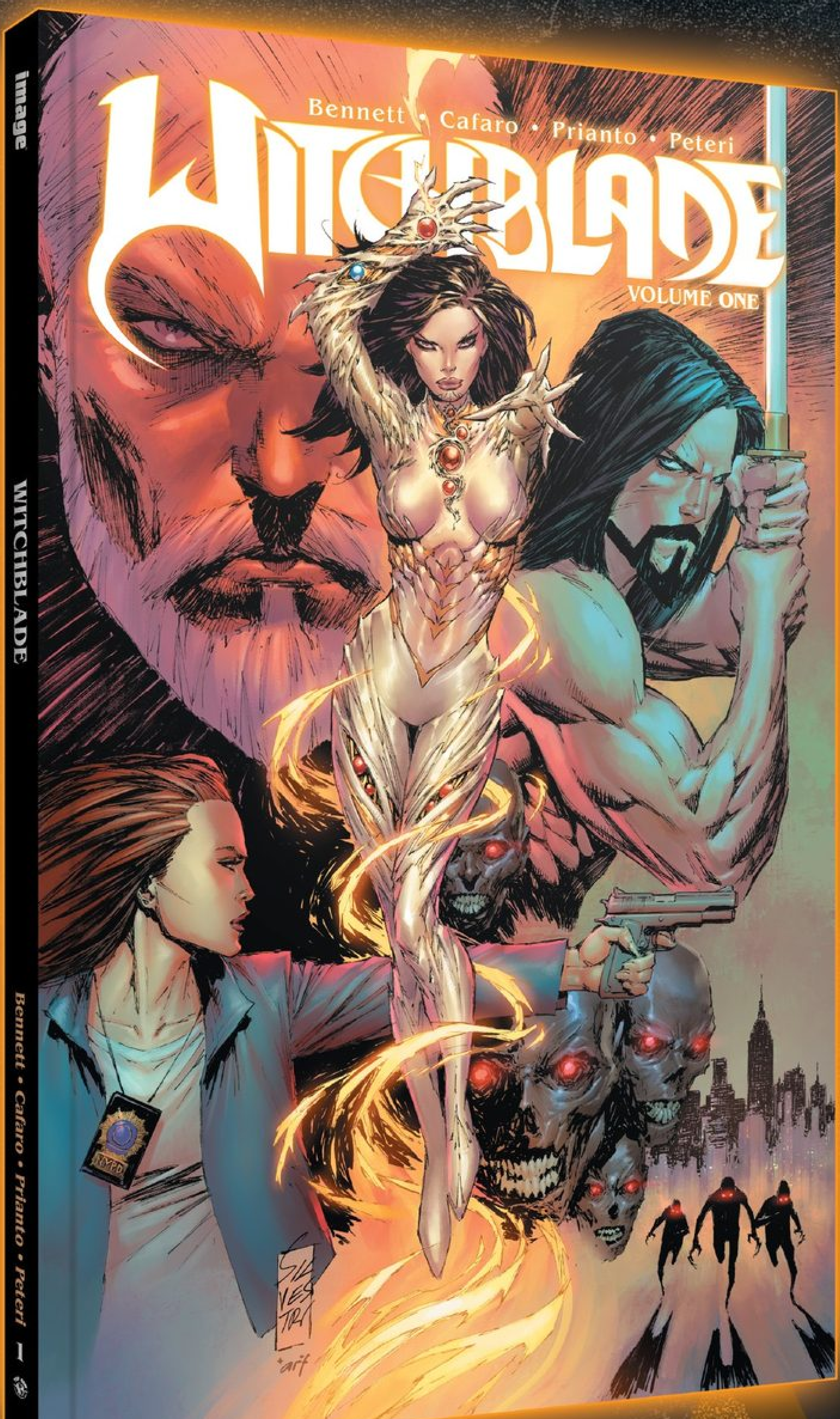
VOLUME ONE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WITCHBLADE
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1

"Hard-boiled supernatural noir hypercharged for the 21st century."
—Kieron Gillen
(DIE, PHONOGRAM)

"Writer Marguerite Bennett continues a meticulous re-imagining of an enduring indie comics hero..."
Grade A – *You Don't Read Comics*

"It is hard to hit the right balance when rebooting a series. The creative team needs to walk the tightrope of introducing fresh ideas while not ignoring the established lore. Bennett and her team have done just that with WITCHBLADE (#1)."
9.1/10 – *Geek'd Out*

"An origin story that hits hard and fast! Bennett and Cafaro's WITCHBLADE is a gritty and exciting reimagining that leaves you desperately wanting issue two!"
– Chip Zdarsky
(SEX CRIMINALS, Batman)

The first volume of a new WITCHBLADE series combines a reimagined origin with contemporary takes on familiar characters and new story arcs that rekindle the energy and excitement that fueled the '90s Image Revolution, which shaped generations of top creators.

New York City Police Detective Sara Pezzini's life was forever fractured by her father's murder. Cold, cunning, and hellbent on revenge, Sara now stalks a vicious criminal cabal beneath the city, where an ancient power collides and transforms her into something wild, magnificent, and beyond her darkest imaginings. Electrified with power, strength, healing, pleasure, and rage, every temptation lures her from her mission to find her father's killer. Sara thinks she possesses the Witchblade—but does it possess her?

This volume also includes an exclusive three-page teaser featuring another pillar of the Top Cow Universe, **THE DARKNESS!**

First printing introductory price of only $9.99 • Collects WITCHBLADE (2024) #1-6+#1/2
200 pages • Full Color • T+/Teen Plus • Lunar Order Code: 1124IM272 • ISBN: 978-1-5343-6060-0

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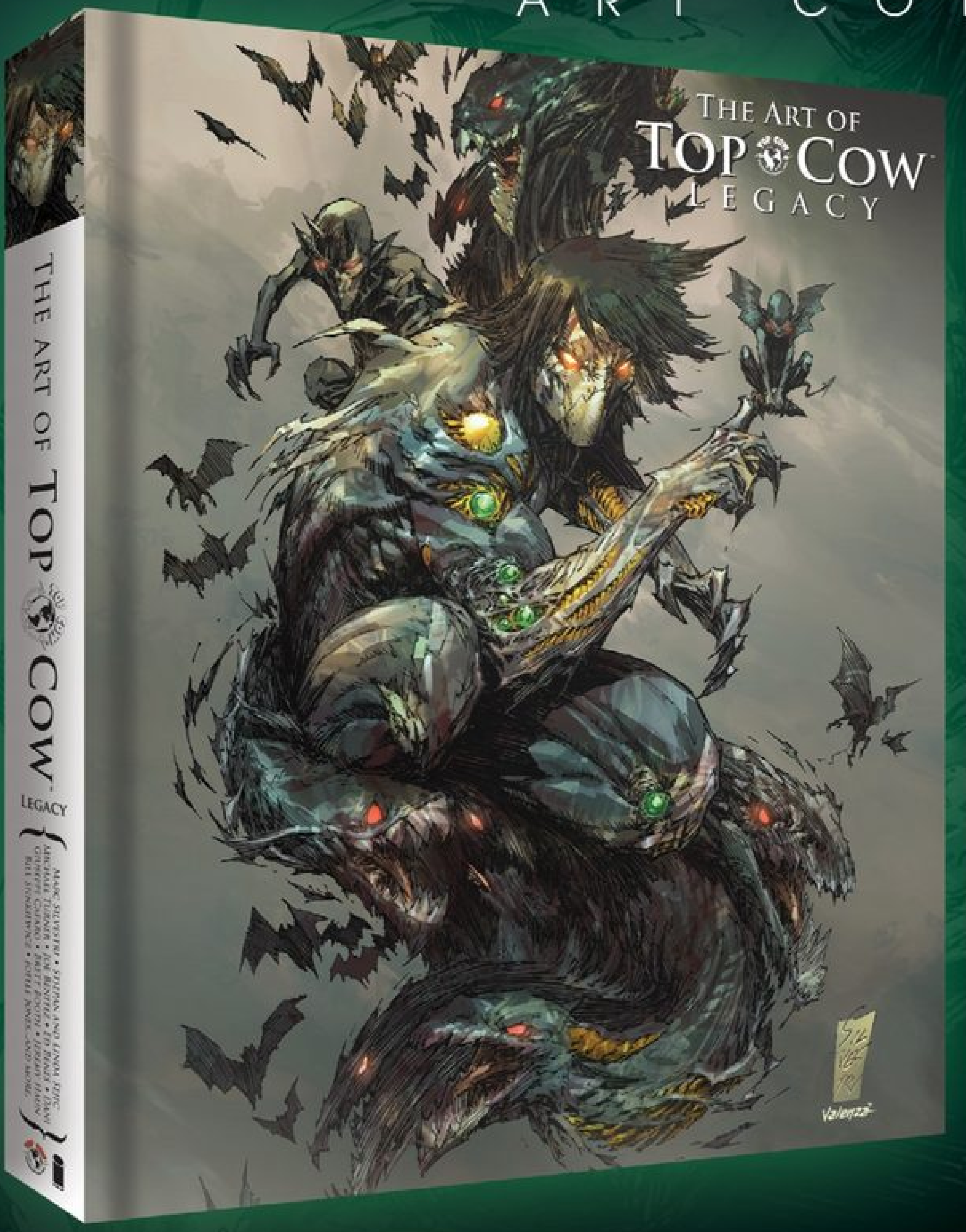
The Art of Top Cow: Legacy

ART COLLECTION



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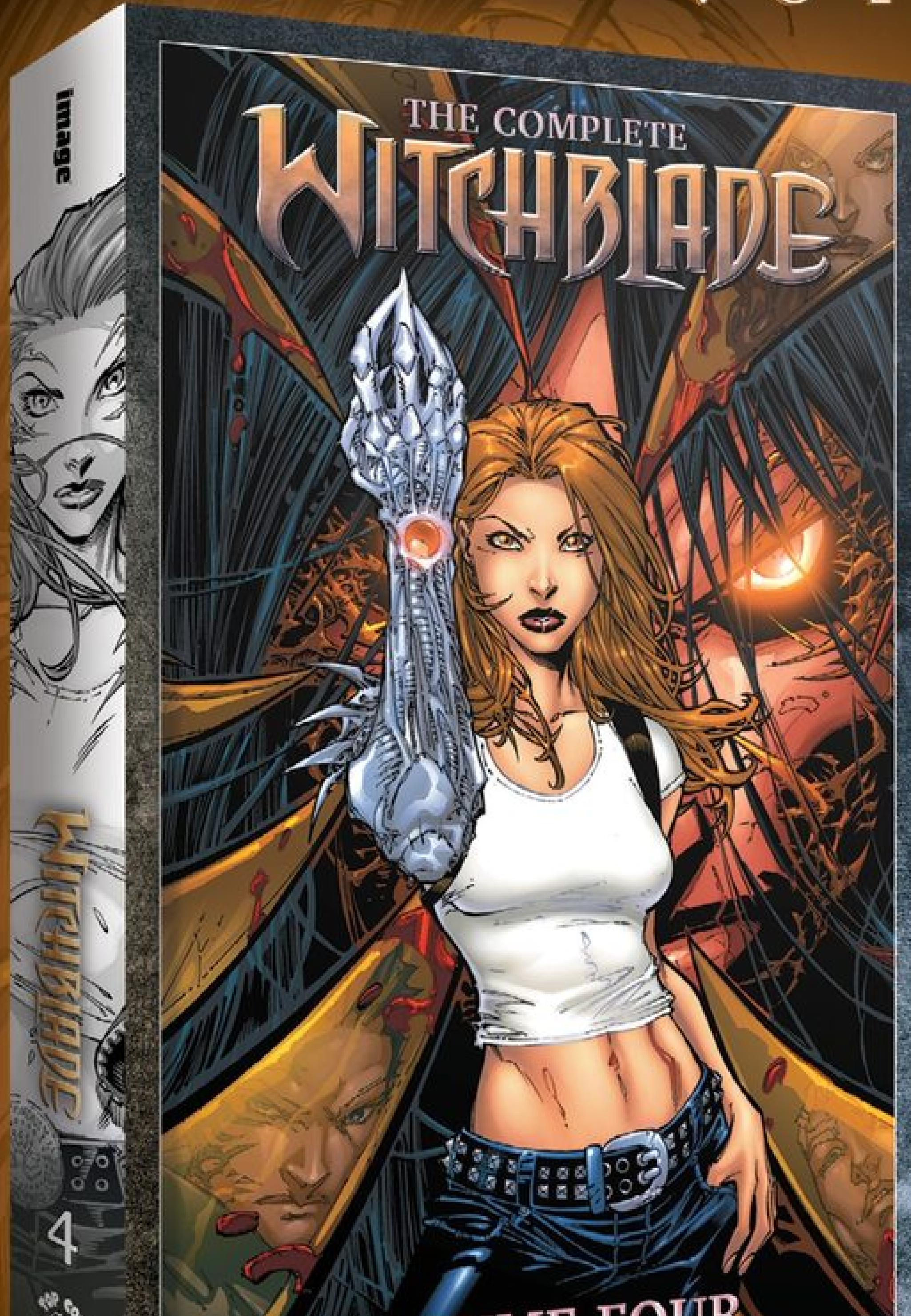

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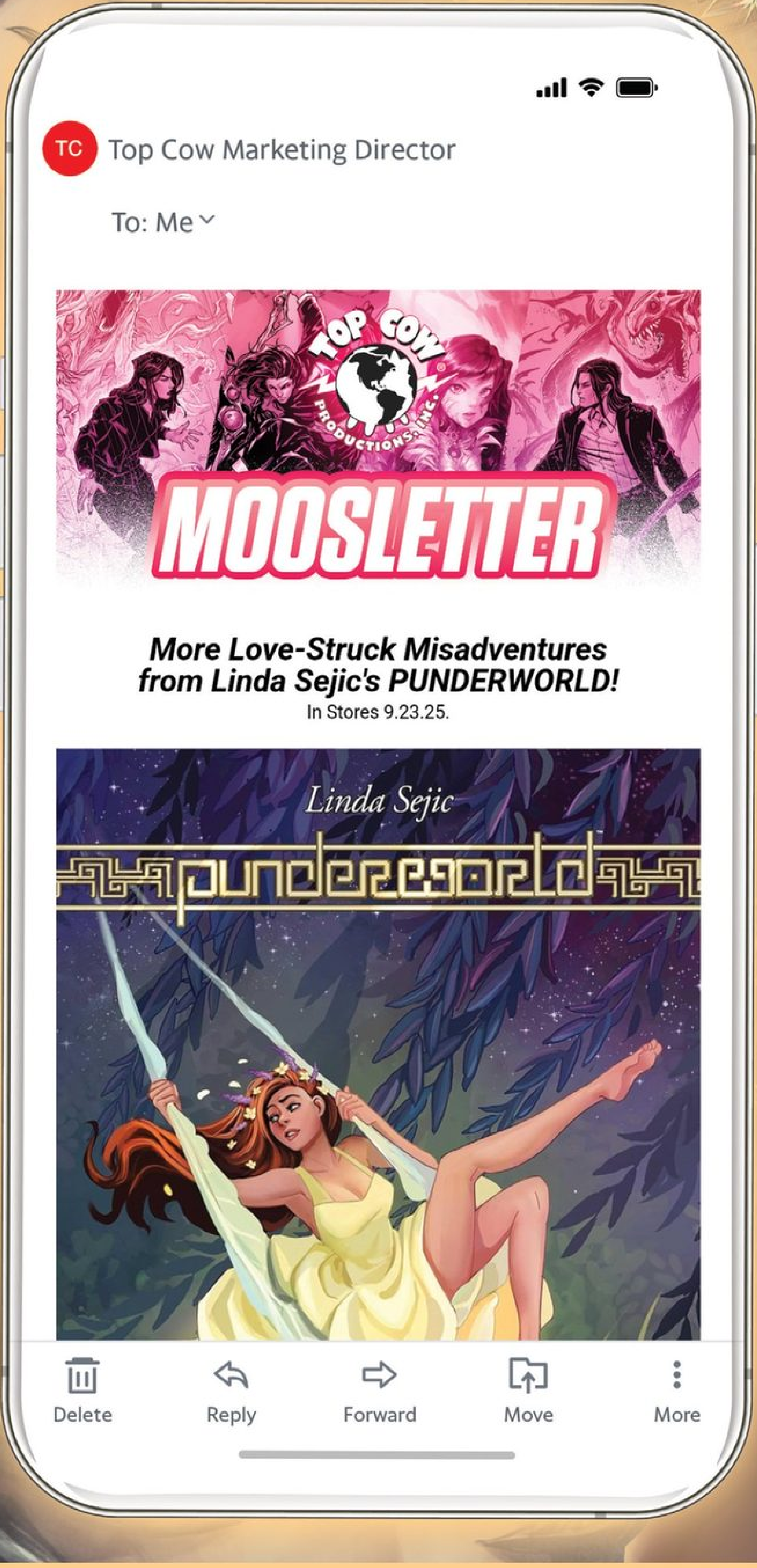

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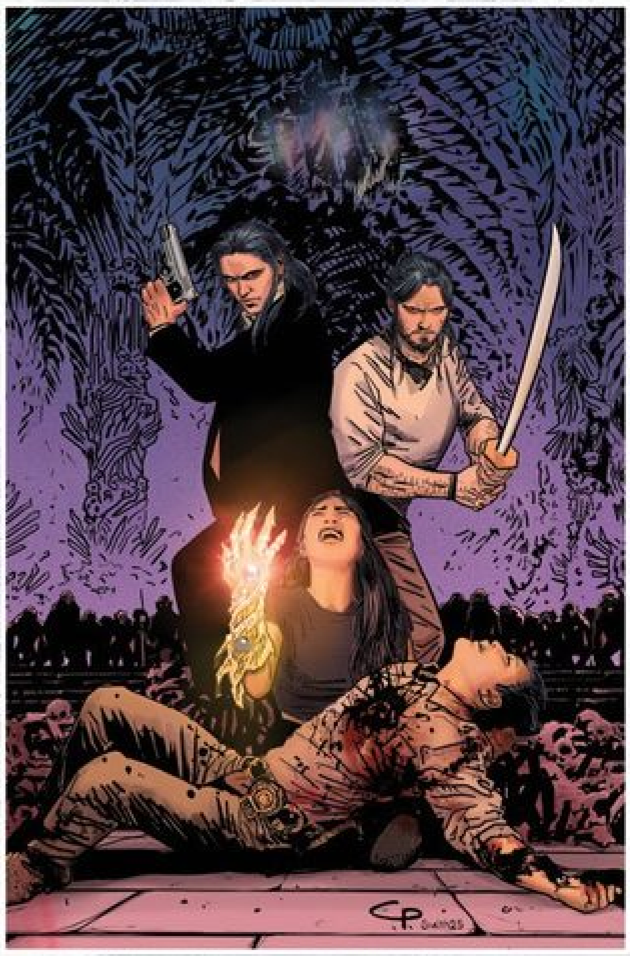

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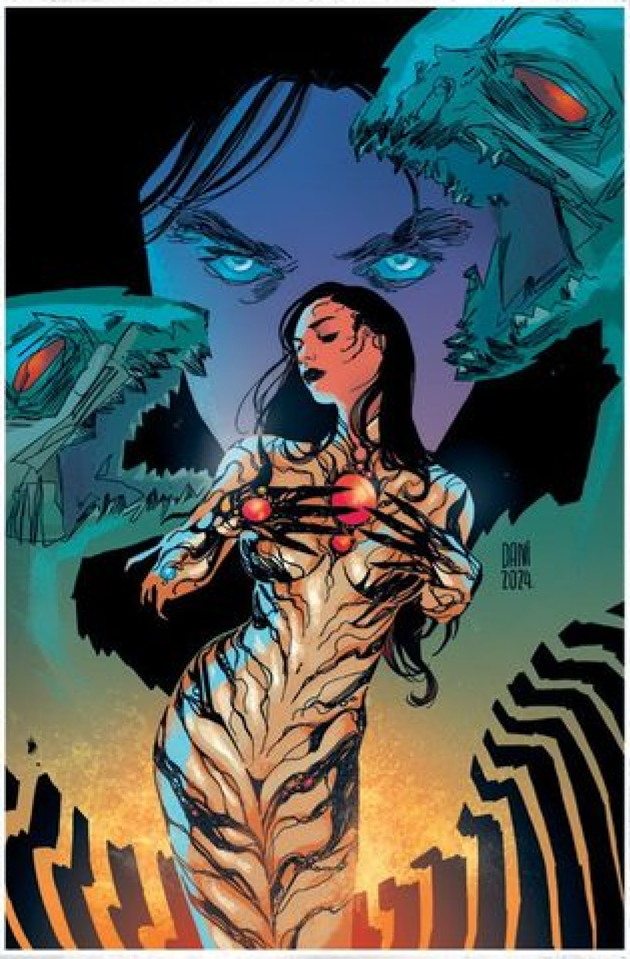

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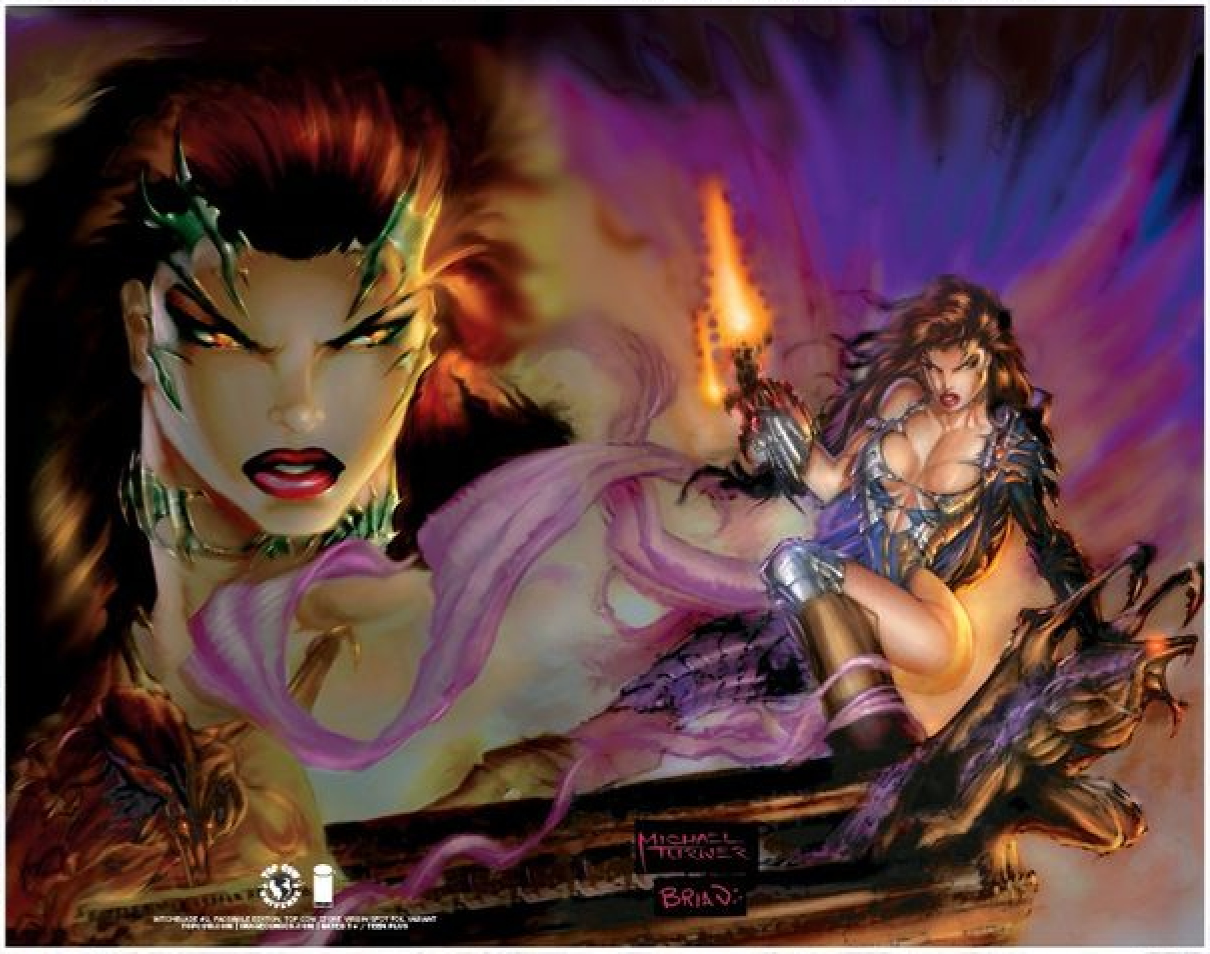

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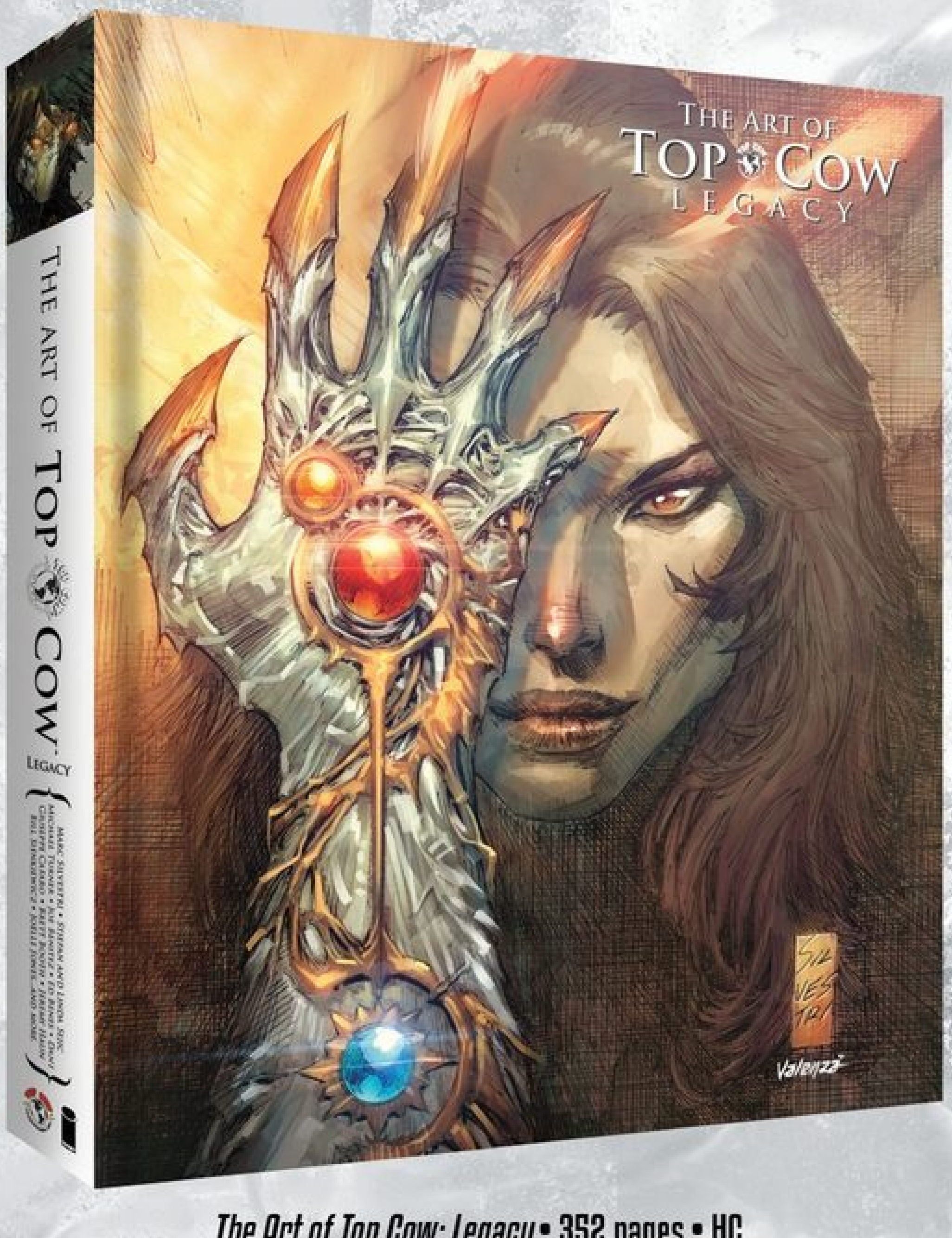
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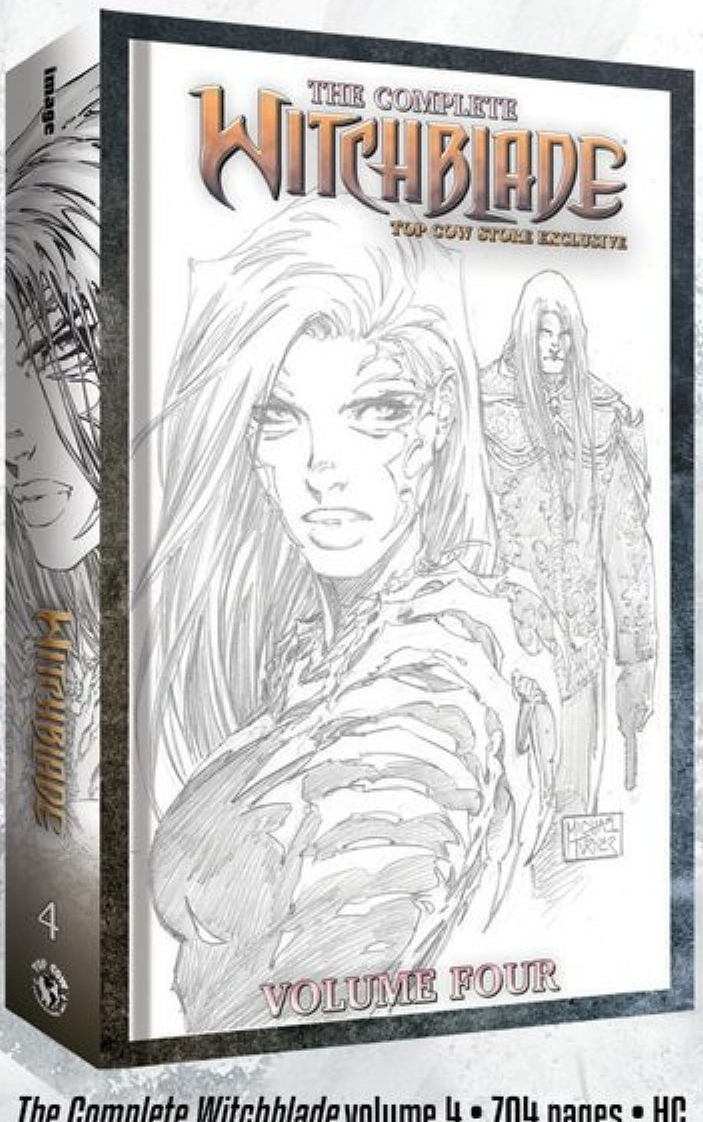
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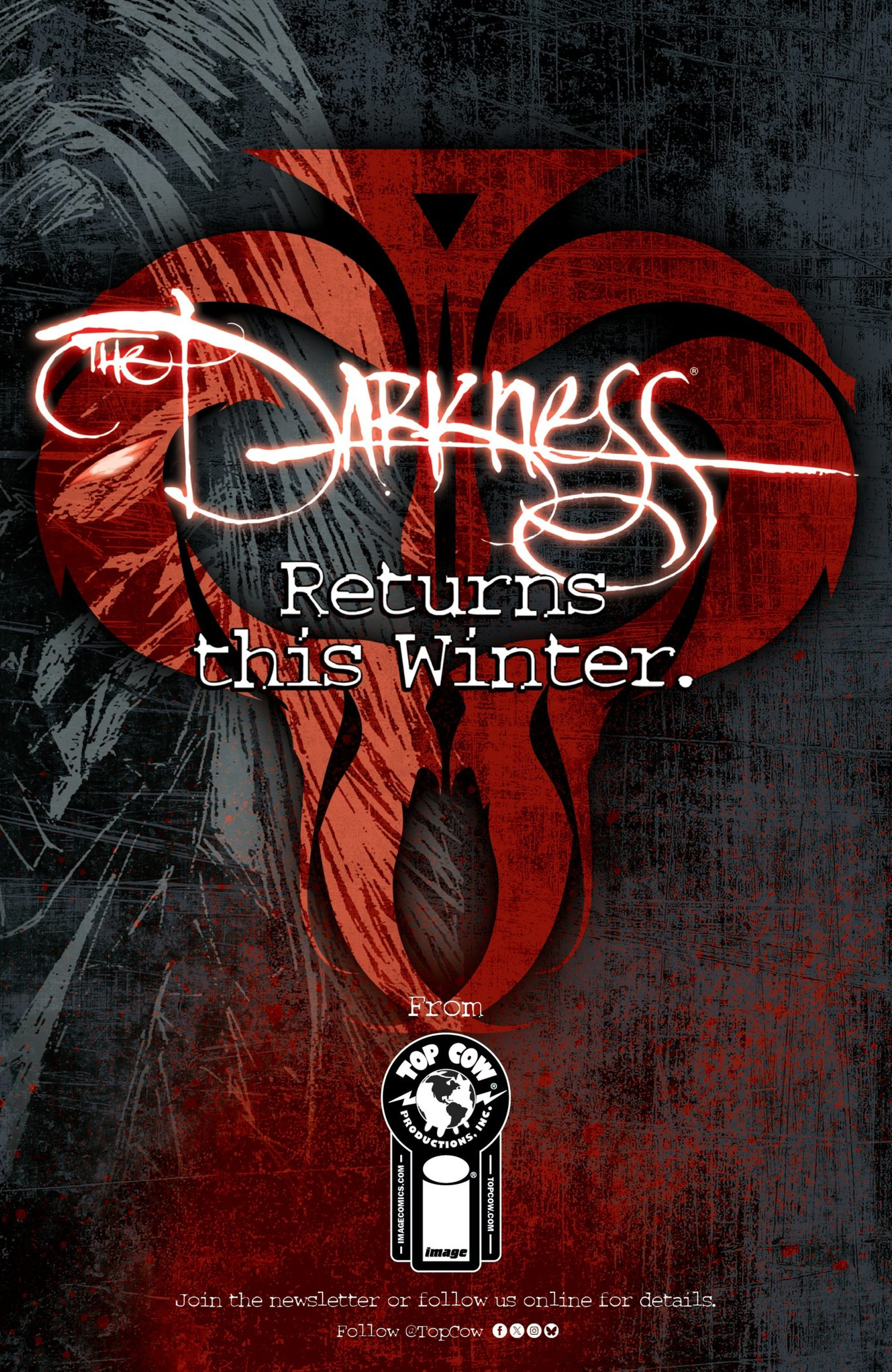
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